PUNCH or The London Charivari-Wednesday, December 28 1949

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28 1949

Vol. CCXVII No. 5692

PUNCH OFFICE 10 BOUVERIE STREET LONDON E.C.4



Underwear · Knitwear · Socks

J. B. LEWIS & SONS, LTD., Nottingham.

Suppliers to the Wholesale Trade.



# Date test proves Wisdom natural bristle lasts longer

own satisfaction which natural bristle toothbrush gives you the best service. Buy a Wisdom natural bristle toothbrush and at the same time any other 2/6 bristle brush you like.

Then, having scratched the date you bought them on the handles, use them alternately and see which lasts longer.

This advertisement is a friendly | We do not claim that natural challenge—to prove to your | bristle wears as well as nylon, but bristle wears as well as nylon, but you will find that Wisdom bristle toothbrushes definitely stay brisk and lively when other natural bristle brushes have gone limp and soggy. That's because Wisdom are made only from finest Chungking and Siberian bristles, acknowledged by the experts to be the best in the world. But don't take our word for it. Make the ' date ' test and prove it yourself.





Opening a tin of that Tobacco, by pulling the rubber tab, is the start of a Smoker's Feast

This week's Testimony to the goodness of Barneys PUNCHBOWLE comes from the U.S. ZONE of OCCUPATION . . . from a former Enemy.

To John Sinclair Ltd. Bahnhofstrasse, U.S. Zone, Germany, 14/11/49 Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Dear Sirs,

I first encountered PUNCHBOWLE in England in 1938 on a trip of vacation. My second encounter happened on the Normandy Battle Front in 1944, shortly after D Day . . . after the Avranche break-through 1 happened to be present when a storehouse was emptied in Chartres. They had PUNCHBOWLE there, stored since the days when the B.E.F. left. In Aug. '44, after 4 years, that tobacco was still fresh and full of flavour.

Living in the U.S. Zone of Occupation, I am of course acquainted with all the American pipe tobaccos that there exist. They are much better than the German Brands but there is by far none like PUNCHBOWLE. Opening a tin of that Tobacco, by pulling the rubber ring, is the start of a Smoker's Feast.

(The original letter can be inspected at The Barneys Sales Bureau, 24 Holborn, E.C.I.)

TO YOUNGER SMOKERS, EVERYWHERE!

Two generations of Pipemen have been recommending Barneys to other Smokers because of its sheer goodness. Wisely you may follow their friendly lead. Smokers abroad can arrange for regular personal despatches, Ex-bond and British Duty Free, in 2 lb. parcels, to many lands but not, as yet, to all.

Punchbowle (full), Barneys (medium), and Parsons Pleasure (mild). Home Prices 4/3½d. oz.

John Sinclair Ltd., Manufacturers, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Eng.

# FLY

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The recent currency devaluation spotlights a special 'Winter Sports in Norway Scheme and makes it even more attractive for enthusiasts to enjoy a truly carefree holiday where the absolute maximum is obtained for our limited foreign currency

This Winter Sports Scheme is devised for the individual traveller and comprises air travel by four-engined Skymasters, excellent hotel accomhotels, and is all-inclusive.

Norway is undoubtedly the Winter Sports rendezvous for the 1949-50 season, where Sterling still buys a pound's worth of holiday pleasure. Illustrated brochure and full details from your usual Travel Agency or from S.A.S., 185, Regent Street, W.I. Tel.: REGent 6777.

# SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES

Direct air routes from London and Glasgow to all parts of Scandinavia.

FLY S A S TO NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA



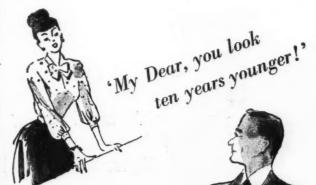
# By Telephone and Cable

The discoveries of the travelling correspondent who sets a girdle round the earth by a world-hop from capital to capital have their own undoubted value. Foreign news, different in kind, more balanced in perspective and more cumulative in effect, is provided by the team of staff correspondents of The Times posted in almost every important world centre.

A practical journalist, a student of history and a man of affairs, The Times correspondent in Washington or Warsaw, Delhi or Damascus has his part to play in a world-wide Imperial and Foreign News service. His primary function is to give a straightforward and accurate report, free from emotion or prejudice, on the daily march of events. From such objective reports in the News columns, supported and clarified at intervals by Special Articles on the leader page, the reader of The Times draws a faithful and steadily illuminated picture of world history in the making.



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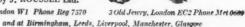


That is the result of wearing a Linia belt! This scientific method of control not only improves a man's figure but makes him feel a great deal fitter too. Why not investigate this sensible, inconspicuous garment? There are Linia Shorts too. Free booklet on the Linia Method from Dept. B28, at the address below.

LINIA BELTS

Sold only by J. ROUSSEL Ltd.

177 Regent St., London W1 Phone Reg 7570



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Improved supplies of the authentic "MOTOLUXE" Fur Fabric Coats are now becoming available through the leading Retail Stores. In case of difficulty write to us for the address of the nearest Agent.

difficulty write to us for the address of the nearest Agent.

\*MOTOLUXE MOTOR RUGS are again obtainable in the home trade.

LEE BROTHERS (OVERWEAR) LTD., Queen St. Works, 54 Regina Street, London, N.W.1

1848—Established over 100 Years—1949

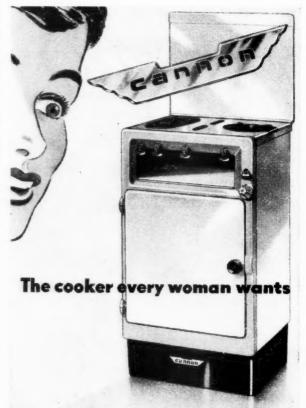
The kindest in the world

For more than 50 years babies have revelled in its soothing softness at bathtime

And Johnson's Baby Sodp is back again. Be sure to ask for it. Be sure to ask for it. Baby Powder

JOHNSON & JOHNSON (GT. BRITAIN) LTD. SLOUGH AND GARGRAVE





Available at your local Gas Showrooms

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# Water won't wet



## WOVEN FABRIC

One of the most remarkable characteristics of Tygan is that it is a fabric which won't get wet. You can sponge it down to clean it. You can use it out of doors, and it won't rot or mould. As a flyscreen in the tropics, it is unaffected by conditions of extreme humidity. On board TYGAN UPHOLSTERY ship it doesn't even mind sea water.

The negligible water absorption of Tygan, combined with its excellent wearing and hygienic qualities, commends it for a wide range of special uses. For the seats in cars, buses and trains; for garden furniture; for chairs in cafes, bars, hotels; for cinema and theatre seats.





TYGAN FLY NET

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# **PALLADIUM**

Gold, platinum. . . and palladiumthree precious metals for fine jewellery. Palladium, rarer than gold and having the whiteness characteristic of platinum, is lighter and less costly than either. Ask your jeweller about Palladium for modern settings.



PLATINUM METALS DIVISION The Mond Nickel Company Limited Sunderland House, Curzon Street, London, W.1

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# Her last chance







# NO. NO. MISS FLETCHER, THE FOOD ISN'T TO BLAME SLEEP CONTROLS ENERGY AS WELL AS FOOD. WAKING UP TIRED MEANS YOU AREN'T GETTING THE RIGHT KIND OF SLEEP-DEEP SLEEP - THE ONLY KIND THAT RESTORES ENERGY. I ADVISE HORLICKS EVERY NIGHT







# SCHOOL PARTY LET'S GIVE LET'S GIVE LET'S GIVE THREE CHEERS THREE CHEERS FOR MISS FOR FLETCHER FLETCHER THINKS I SAY three Cheers for HORLICKS

# Is tiredness making you edgy, depressed?

ARE YOU NERVY, edgy, constantly tired? Do you feel that any effort is just too much? Then you are not getting the right kind of sleep. Energy is controlled by sleep as well as by food, but only aeep sleep can give you enough energy, make you buoyant, alive. Try a nightly cup of Horlicks—the delicious, soothing drink that invites deep sleep. Soon you'll find yourself waking refreshed, invigorated,

ready for anything.

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Come to

await you this

will find pleasant relaxation . . . moderate temperatures and a variety of recreations so wide as to cater for every demand. You will never forget your stay at Bournemouth . . . the invigorating pine-perfumed sea air . . . the comforting climate, such rare moments will become lovely memories in the years ahead.



Restaurant Car Expresses from Waterloo.
All-Pullman Bournemouth Belle' runs daily
Send for Guide Book (Post 6d.), P.O. please, or free folder and Hotel List
from W. Birtwistle, Information Bureau, Room 58, Westover Road

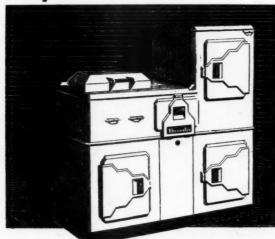
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## Filament or Fluorescent

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THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. LTD.

# in <u>your</u> kitchen...



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Britain's most modern Heat-Storage Cooker and Water Heater An all-electric unit Two ovens, grill, hotplate, simmer-plate A con-

plate, simmer-plate A constant supply of hot water Fully automatic twenty-four hour service.

Thermolux

full details of these exclusive Heat-Storage Units can be obtained from approved Thermolius Agents or from Thermo-Cookers Ltd., 77 Great Peter Street, Wet-tminister, S.W.I.



Joannes prize recipe!

Most people agree that Maconochie's Tomato Soup

Most people agree that Maconochie's Tomato Soup has a specially delicious flavour. And the praise is due to Monsieur Joannes.

You see, Monsieur Joannes is a famous French chef.
Not only are all Maconochie's Soups made from his
recipes, but he keeps an eagle eye on ingredients and
cooking. Treat yourself to the Tomato—it's
so rich and full of flavour! You'll take your hat
off to Maconochie's Monsieur Joannes.

Trust Maconochies for flavour

Pun



## - Yours for Years

Celebrate the New Year in a new suit by Maenson. It bears the insignia of quality—really good cloth, perfect cut and a personal fit that rivals a first-class 'bespoke.' Try one on at any Maenson Agent's Man's Shop or leading stores in London and the Provinces.

Average price £18—£20.

For your nearest Agent's address please write 'Maenson' 106 Regent Street. London, W.1.



IN THE SERVICE OF THRIFT FOR A CENTURY

THE

## ABBEY NATIONAL

BUILDING SOCIETY

which this year celebrates its hundredth anniversary, is marking the occasion by a relaxation of its investment restrictions. Until further notice existing shareholders may add any sum to their share accounts, provided the total does not exceed £5,000. New shareholders may invest up to £5,000. (Husband and wife are considered as one for this purpose.)

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CVS-222



MODERN medical science has proved that for real relief from pain, what is needed is not one remedial agent, but a combination of four.

# These four agents—acetyl-salicylic acid, phenacetin and codeine (which are sedatives) and caffeine (which is a stimulant) combined together, act synergistically in 'Cogene'. That is why 'Cogene' is so effective for quick and satisfying relief of headaches, rheumatic pains, toothache, backach, neuralgia, and for help against colds. Non-habit forming. No harmful after-effects. 1/3 from all chemists.

'COGENE'

the perfect modern formula for the 4-way relief of pain

A "GENATOSAN" PRODUCT



ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS AND CABLE MAKERS SINCE 1875

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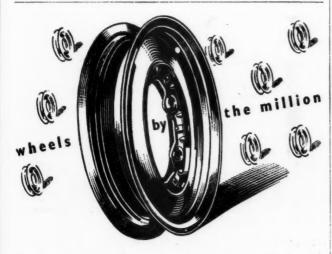
# Electric Speed for HAND PLANING

Everything a jack-plane can do this Electric hand plane does 10 times faster with a tenth of the effort. Also cuts end grain and across the grain without 'break away.' Planes up to any width. Instantaneous single-knob adjustment for depth of cut. Operates from mains or our portable generators. Price £35.0.0. Full particulars on request.

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Electric
HAND PLANE

BRITISH EQUIPMENT CO., LTD., (BU), IXWORTH HOUSE, IXWORTH PLACE, LONDON, S.W.3. 'Phone: KENsington 3491 (7 lines).

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Salesman plus . . . .

technician—a desirable combination where industrial lubricants are concerned. Few oils can be bought by rule-of-thumb methods—even specifications can be dangerous! That is why factories of every type are better lubricated when the man who books the order is practical enough to roll up his sleeves and go right on the job. Our representatives can do this in many cases. We believe industrial lubrication requires this expert, personal approach and invite you to test it. One minute's dictation to your secretary

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# What couldn't you do with 3 days in Buenos Aires?

You can be there and back within a week and a day

THREE DAYS in Buenos Aires would give you fresh insight into the special problems of your Argentine market—not to speak of that vital "personal contact" which in South America often means so much.

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B.O.A.C. aircrews have inherited the centuries-old British tradition of courtesy, reliability and navigating skill. Excellent hot or cold meals are served, there is a well-stocked bar, and passengers are waited on by a steward and stewardess.

FAST, FREQUENT SERVICES
From London to

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Lower insurance, packing and warehousing costs — and also, in shipping to countries that assess Customs Duties by gross weight, the lighter packaging — means that air freight to South America is often actually cheaper than sea freight

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Reservations and information at no extra charge from Travel Agents, or from British Overseas Airways Corporation, Airways Terminal, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. (Victoria 2323)

# This England...



Ashriage Park-Heris

HE WHO PLANTS an avenue of trees, cannot, in the nature of things, hope to enjoy them in their grandeur—he plants them for England. Much that we have and prize to-day comes of that attitude in our fathers. They did not make or build "to last their time," but rather that something worthy should mark their passage—their good live after them. We, too, must keep this tradition of the thing well made, that our children's children may be beholden to us. Even in simple matters it can be done; are we not beholden to some centuries of careful craft-proud men, that such a daily need as Bass (or is yours Worthington) is so superbly filled?

# ROSS GINGER ALE SODA WATER TONIC WATER

LIME JUICE CORDIAL LEMONADE GRAPE FRUIT

To be found again in "foreign parts"—but very scarce at home



## ANYHOW. its DELICIOUS!

Coffee's not only how you make it - but what you make it with. Here is what M. Charles Latour calls "café par excellence".

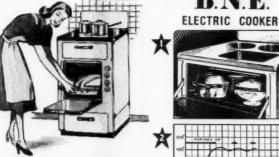
## FIFTH AVENUE" PURE COFFEE



Write for leaflet, 'Coffee for the Connoisseur"

NEWBALL & MASON LIMITED. NOTTINGHAM

# Three new Kitchen joys with the



A large hot-cupboard for warming plates and keeping food hot . . 2 uniform temperature automatically maintained throughout the oven to ensure perfect cooking . . . 3 roomy drawer in base for storing kitchen Utmost efficiency with really modern lines and delightful twotone ivory finish make this B. N. E. Cooker the delight of every housewife. Examine it at your electrical showroom before you buy or hirepurchase your new cooker.



Write for publication E.C.6
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THE PRESS ART SCHOOL LTD.



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Beautiful Stuart Crystal is mainly reserved for the Nation's vital export drive but a limited supply is now making its welcome appearance here at home

## In Dread of Winter's Cold!

Please help us to enable our very poor and invalid gentlepeople to buy coal before the cold weather sets in.

The Association is entirely supported by voluntary contributions.

## DISTRESSED GENTLEFOLKS' AID **ASSOCIATION**

Patroness: HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

Appeal P. IDDESLEIGH HOUSE, CARTON ST., S.W.I



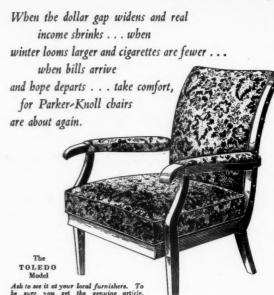
Growing-up is an energetic business. VIROL—the food for healthy growth and development—gives children the extra energy they need. VIROL also helps to guard against infections. Give VIROL after every meal.

# She's growing-She needs

# Virol

VIROL IS A CONCENTRATED FOOD prepared from malt extract, specially refined beef fat, egg, sugars (including glucose) and orange juice, with added mineral salts and vitamins.





# Parker-Knoll

PARKER-KNOLL LIMITED · TEMPLE END · HIGH WYCOMBE · BUCKS

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# Don't let these eyes...



## become these ...



There comes a point, dear Madam, when you have to think of your eyes first. After all, they most reveal your looks, your age, your character. Take proper care of them. Give them enough rest. After sewing or such like, use Optrex to refresh them. And, of course, use Optrex for all other minor eye troubles—both for yourself and your family—even the youngest. Yes, even for Baby.

The large size is much better value.

Optrex the EYE LOTION

ONE FAMILY

CANNON STREET

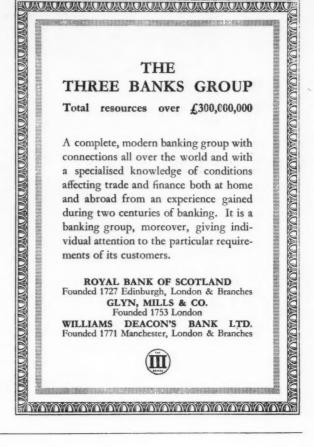
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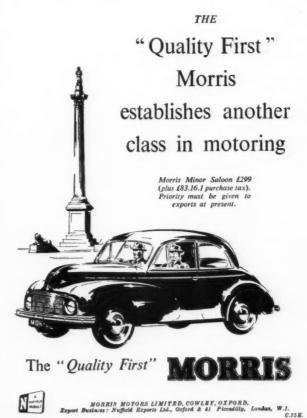
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Punch,



## LITTLE **MATTERS SO MUCH**

The test of aspirin is its purity. Just because of its purity Howards Aspirin costs a little more.

# HOWARDS ASPIRIN

It is not the cheapest it is the best.



Made by HOWARDS OF ILFORD Established 1797

this is the SPECIAL lather, prescribed for supersensitive skins. Mildly medicated. Soothing. Cooling. A joy to skin which tingles, feels taut or becomes inflamed after ordinary shaving.



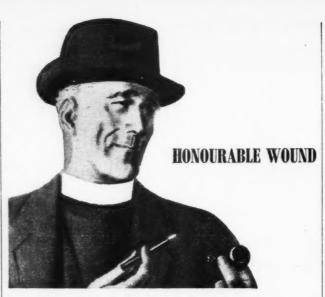


All Life-boat men are volunteers except the motor mechanics. All are rewarded every time they answer a call. Total yearly payments to the men are nearly £100,000. The Lifeboat Service is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. Send your contribution however small.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION 42, GROSVENOR GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.I.

THE DUKE OF MONTROSE, K.T., C.B., C.Y.O., V.D., Treasurer.

COL. A. D. BURNETT BROWN, M.C., T.D., M.A., Secretary.



We went through the war together, but it was rapping for order at the Village Hall last night that proved the last straw! Never mind, a briar splice will soon put things right; we're good for many ounces of even, slow-burning Three Nuns yet . . . and that reminds me, might I have my pouch back? I've a second string ready in my pocket . . .

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OF FAMOUS 'CHASERS GOLDEN MILLER (1927) Bay gelding by Gold Court-Miller's Pride

PRED IN IRELAND by Mr. J. Solomon, and changed hands four times before being bought by Miss Dorothy Paget. Golden Miller was one of the greatest 'chasers of all time. He started in 55 races, won 29 of them, and was placed in thirteen. His record of five Cheltenham Gold Cups in successive years may never be beaten. He wan the Grand National in 1024 and new terms at 2161, was the shortest, priced won the Grand National in 1934, and next year, at 2 to 1, was the shortest-priced favourite in the history of the race

The continuing tradition of the British Turf has its counterpart in the unbroken service which has been offered to sportsmen by David Cope Ltd. for more than half a century. Our free, illustrated brochure describes that service.

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Enjoying universal favour for a hundred years. Elliman's continues to grow in popularity, and is undoubtedly the World's best known Embrocation. It has been used and trusted by generations of sufferers from RHEU-MATISM, LUMBAGO, SCIATICA, STIFFNESS



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TO THOSE ENTITLED UNDER Wills, Marriage Settlements, Annuities and Legacies

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It's a joy to behold a lively, healthy dog. Benbow's is not a harsh purgative, but a tonic rich in the oils and vitamins a dog needs. Your dog reflects your personality—see that he gets what he needs to keep him well. Pog-lovers

depend

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well. Dog-lovers have put their faith in Benbow's since 1835
From pet shops, corn stores and c



10, STATION ROAD, SHORTLANDS, KENT

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Prevention of Damage by Pests 12 & 13 GEO. 6. CH. 55 Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS. PART L. RATS AND MICE. Duties of local authorities.
Obligation of occupiers of land to notify local authority of rats and mice.
Power of local authorities to manife authority. Section

I. Local authorities for the purposes of Part I.

Duties of local authorities.

Chiesting of occupiers of land to notify lo rats and mice.

Power of local authority to require action.

Remedies for failure to comply with notice under s. 4.

Additional powers of local authorities in relation to groups of premises. of premises.

Recovery of expenses under s. 5 or s. 6.

Provisions as to threshing and dismantling of ricks.

Provisions as to threshing to require information as to interest in land.

Interests in land.

Authorities of Arguments service of notices. etc. interests in land.

10. Authentication of documents, service of notices, etc.

11. Exchequer grants to local authorities.

12. Powers of Minister with respect to functions of local authorities. Obligation of certain undertakers to give notice of occurrence of infestation.

14. Power of Minister to give directions to certain undertakers
for preventing or mitigating infestation.
15. Appeal against directions under s. 14.
16. Powers of Minister in case of failure to comply with
directions.
17. Offences against Part II. directions.

Offences against Part II.

Power of Minister to delegate to local authorities.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act (1949), which comes into force on March 31st, 1950, makes it the responsibility of individual occupiers and management to clear premises infested by rats, mice and insect pests, or report their presence to their Local Authority—but it will still remain the duty of the owner or occupier to clear his premises.

It is in your own interests to ACT NOW by ensuring that your premises have been cleared by the time this Act comes into operation. The Ratin Service is the largest commercial organisation of its kind in the country. The employment by the Ratin Service of the latest scientific methods means that the natural cunning and suspicions of rats and mice are defeated, thus whole colonies are wiped out.

Write TO-DAY for our new folder explaining your responsibility under the Act and giving details of how the Ratin Service can clear your premises and keep them clear.

# RATIN SERVICE

covers the country

THE BRITISH RATIN CO. LTD., 125 PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1. Tel: ABBEY 7621.

We operate from 44 centres.

# "BROOMWADE"

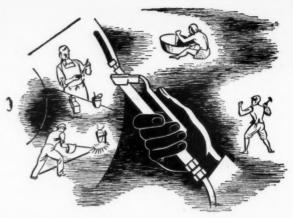
**Air Compressors & Pneumatic Tools** 



"Broomwade" Air Compressor No. 8581. Supplied 1913, Overhauled 1949 and now back at works

BROOM & WADE LIMITED · HIGH WYCOMBE · BUCKS
Phone: High Wycombe 1630 (8 lines) Grams: BROOM High Wycombe

BR \$8 dm



# Greater Production demands INDUSTRIAL ADHESIVES!

Where methods of joining things together are concerned, what was good enough for our fathers is certainly not good enough for us. New products have come into being and with them, a call for new adhesives and sealing compounds. Bostik Adhesives and Sealing Compounds meet such demands. They are waterproof and re-

silient, do not chip, crack or surrender to climatic conditions. Above all, they stick and seal the joint at the same time. Such outstanding qualities find increasing employment—especially in the building, aircraft and motor industries. A booklet on the Bostik system of Adhesion and Sealing on request.

Bostik

Adhesives and Sealing Compounds for Industry

★ BOSTIK is a registered Trade Mark of the B.B. Chemical Co., Ltd.

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#### PURELY PERSONAL

THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE—the days when you light up King Six Cigars (1/7 each).





This bicycle has been created to satisfy the demands of riders who appreciate the best of everything. It has many new and advantageous features,

PRICE
(Lady's or Gent's) £15 . 15 . 0
Plus Purchase Tax £3 . 13 . 6

Royal Enfield



SAFE CABINET

INTERIOR FITTINGS



Safe-Cabinet shelves, 1" Plain or 1" Reinforced.



Drop-front lockers, fitted with lock, can be inserted in the Safe-Cabinet.



PLAN - DRAWER UNITS

Plan-Drawer sections, one, two, three or more units as required.



## **Certified Protection**

Vital irreplaceable records and documents, the real value of which cannot be insured, can be given certified protection against fire and burglary in the Remington Rand Safe-Cabinet.

Fire causes enormous losses every year. Pre-cast, monolithic construction, reinforced insulation, careful control at every stage of manufacture, and furnace testing of the finished product enable the Safe-Cabinet to be certified for a degree of fire-protection equal to the most severe fire hazards.

Safe-Cabinet doors swing easily on ball-bearing hinges, fold back flush with the safe when open, close with a double set of interlocking tongues. Bolts engage automatically when the door is closed. A drill-proof steel plate protects the locking mechanism against burglary. Ball-bearing castors make the safe easy to move.

\* Write for new Illustrated Folde

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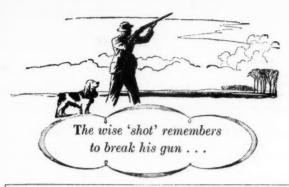
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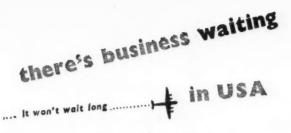
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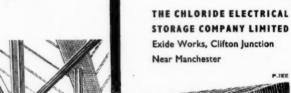
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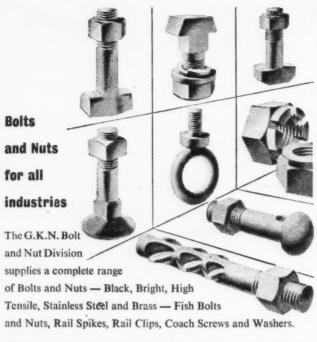
In the export factories, where speed in handling, as surely as speed in production, can write the next few chapters of British history; at the Docks, where the speed of unloading and loading directly affects our day-to-day lives, manpower has an ally. The electric truck, economical, simple, speedy, rugged and easily maintained, is saving time and man-hours where saving counts most. Batteries power these trucks: and the hard worked 'electric's' reputation for freedom from breakdown is a measure of what its battery can take. The Chloride Electrical Storage Company has played an outstanding part in the swing to 'electrics'. Three out of four British electric truck manufacturers fit Exide-Ironclad. Behind each Exide-Ironclad, Chloride and Exide Battery lie the experience and progressive improvements of over

50 years of battery manufacture.



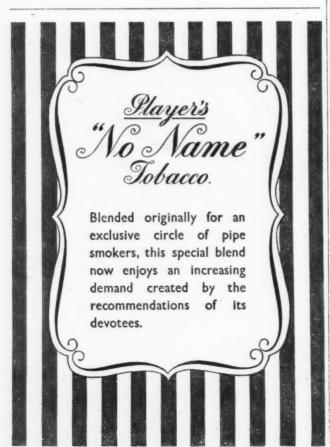
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MY LITTLE GIRL NEEDS RESTORATIVE AFTER ILLNESS. WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?'

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Available NOW for all deaf people GREAT NEWS for DEAF READERS!

... give over fifty variations of tone and power, including Microphonic and Magnetic Hearing.

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Different types of deafness call for different aids . . . You are earnestly advised to use a Hearing Aid of proved performance, designed and adjusted by experts for your particular case. After 26 years of constant research and genuine service to the DEAF OSSICaide have a range of SEVENSUPER AIDS which, with expert fitting and adjustment for the individual, are capable of over fifty different variations in tone and power. Each aid is a technical triumph . . . one of them will give you nearest-to-normal hearing.

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Model R.P.14—Just perfected—is one of
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offered to the Deaf. Study these 7 allimportant features:
I NO BATTERY PACK OR BATTERY CORDS
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strychnine and many other potent poisons . . . all deathdealing drugs, yet, in proper dosage, invaluable for the relief of suffering, are locked away in the pharmacy's Poison Cupboard. a registered chemist entitled to keep the key. His is the responsibility of safeguarding society in this and other ways from the abuse of these drugsresponsibility that his record of public service well justifies. All of us rely on the chemist, and his advice is always sound.

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## OOTH PASTE PARKE DAVIS PRODUCT

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THIS DOES THE TRICK! A wise, safe to take two PHENSIC tablets. Repeat the dose in four hours. PHENSIC is quick and safe in action. You can depend on PHENSIC to clear your head, reduce your temperature, and to banish aches and pains. PHENSIC also acts as a "pick-me-up", mentally and physically.

Prices: 4d., 1/6 & 3/8.

for quick safe relief FROM HEADACHES, RHEUMATIC PAIN, LUMBAGO, NEURALGIA, COLDS&CHILLS



# In two darning needles lay...words

TELEGRAPHIC communication became possible in 1837, but at first messages could be sent only by Morse code. A Welshman, David Edward Hughes, a Professor of Music living in the United States, sought to invent an electrical apparatus that would transmit typed messages. One evening in 1855 he borrowed two darning needles from an old lady and began to use them as vibrators . . . Thus was born the telegraphic type-printer — the forerunner of the modern teleprinter.

The inventive spirit of Hughes is still alive in Britain today.

The electricity industry, for instance, is continually developing new appliances which increase the output of our factories and farms and make life easier in the home. On the electricity supply side, too, marvels are being done to overcome the post-war power shortage. Already electricity may be used freely at all times except at peak hours. Soon the nation will be able to enjoy even greater benefits from the new electrical age.



The Electrical Development Association explores and advises on methods by which work on farms can be made easier by the application of electricity. Consult your Electricity Service Centre, or write to E.D.A., 2 Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2

## WHAT'S

## A GLASS BOFFIN ?

There's a lot of them at Chance Brothers . . . glass back-room boys . . . glass scientists. Quite human folk really—would take a glass of bitter with anyone. The only difference is, they're uncommonly clever with glass. What have the Glass Boflins invented? Well . . . Glass that resists heat (called 'Hysil'). The cathode ray tube that makes television possible. Glass

thinner than paper for microscope work. Flawless glass for camera lenses. Glass to protect the eyes from glare and infra red. Glass for beautiful church windows, for factory roof lights, for houses everywhere. Glass bowls, jugs, dishes, that everyone can buy. Glass for everything. Glass for you.

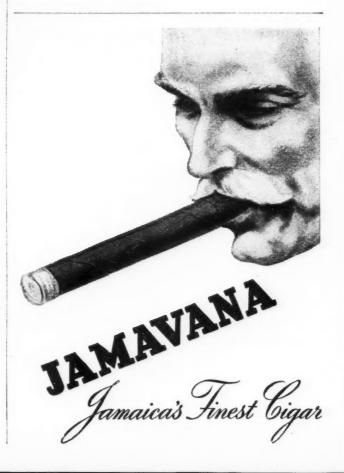
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# Here's how YOU may secure IMMUNITY FROM COLDS!

Many people who previously suffered from one wretched cold after another, especially during the winter months, have found that by taking 2 Serocalcin tablets daily for thirty days they could weather the winter cheerfully, without fear of a cold.

If you already have a cold, take 3 Serocalcin tablets at once, and three times daily. In many cases, even a bad attack clears up completely in a few days. Serocalcin is absolutely safe-for children too.

• The Immunising Pack of 60 tablets costs only 9/3. The Treatment Pack of 20 tablets costs 3/9.

There's nothing like

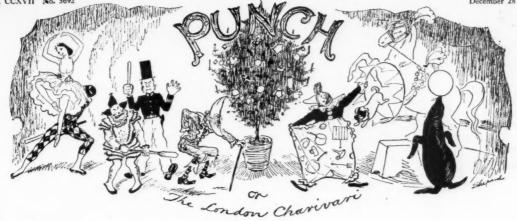
for the prevention and treatment of colds

FREE Write to Harwoods Laboratories Ltd., Watford, for a helpful booklet "Immunity from Colds".

# For "Full-Time" Enjoyment ...







## CHARIVARIA

A HOUSEHOLDER was recently prosecuted on a charge of robbing his gas-meter. His offer to make up the loss with some of his Government stock was coldly ignored.

e

"American agents had been allowed free passes in and out of camp and had done good work, supplementing provisions, school equipment and medical and nursing needs. A record number of babies per head was born in the camp during the last three months."

"The Reaper"

.

A Parisian has been studying British tailoring with a view to making his city the men's as well as women's fashion centre. It will be fun to slip over to Paris "just for my second fitting, dear."

Interesting.

"Miss Wendell Graham, of the staff of Halfway Tree Government School, left the island over the week-end for the U.S. to pursue a course in juvenile

delinquency."—"Jamaica Times"

She's got to get past Ellis Island first.

5

Norwich has had to buy its Lord Mayor a new car large enough for him to sit in with his top hat on. Some ratepayers feel that a smaller vehicle with a sunshine roof would have done just as well. If British Railways are to be run economically, the Executive say, they must carry more passengers. This is what distinguishes them from the other nationalized industries.

"For the first three-quarters of 1949 experts of the bicycle and motor cycle industry were £3,700,000 up on 1948."
"Streatham News"

Time for a wage-freeze?

B

Recruitment for Civil Defence has been disappointing. The official theory is that a large section of the available man-power is holding out for the Home Guard and free boots.

"LOST AND FOUND Double row pale pink bears . . . ''

Advt. in West-country paper

Someone is sure to see them on New Year's Eve.

Black showed momentarily as white, and vice versa, when an item was being televised recently. Political parties are now showing an increased interest in the possibilities of this service for electioneering.

hope he never has the misfortune to lose on points.

A Barcelona bull-fighter was once a boxer. We





# VERSES WRITTEN AFTER READING A TREATISE ON HORSE MANAGEMENT

TOM PEARSE, Tom Pearse, lend me your grey mare, All along, out along, down along lea,

Though I know she's the oldest that ever there were.

With Goose Rump, High Croup, Slack Loins, Ewe Neck, Thick Gullet, Capped Elbow,

And Overshot Fetlock and all, and Overshot Fetlock and all.

I'd lend you my mare with a very good will, All along, out along, down along lea, Except she's bin suddenly took very ill

With Bone Spavin, Bog Spavin, Mallenders, Sallenders, Warbles, and Sitfasts.

And Fistulous Withers and all, and Fistulous Withers and all.

You'd be only too welcome to her, as I say,
All along, out along, down along lea,
But, alas, the old girl's in a very bad way
With Cracked Heels, Greasy Legs, Seedy Toe, Poll Evil,
Laminitis, Sprung Hock,

And Stringhalt and Quittor and all, and Stringhalt and Quittor and all. Well if you won't lend her I'll buy her instead, All along, out along, down along lea,

An' I'll give you two pound though she's very near dead

With Ring Bone, and Side Bone, and Big Leg, and Colic, and Shivering, and Splints,

And Canker and Choking and all, and Canker and Choking and all.

I'll take her back home now and put her to bed, All along, out along, down along lea,

And see that she's massaged, anointed, and fed With Bluestone, Soap Liniment, Boric Acid, Carron Oil, Epsom salts, Chloral Hydrate,

And Mustard and Ginger and all, and Mustard and Ginger and all.

When she's better I'll show her at Widdicombe Fair, All along, out along, down along lea,

Dressed up in her best with the greatest of care, With a Noseband, two Sweat Flaps, Cheek Slip Head, Rein Hook Studs, Ninth Lancer, Round Lip Strap,

And Billets and Blinkers and all, and Billets and Blinkers and all.

## THE MUCH ENDURING SCREEN

1

... But, thinking it over, I saw that neither god nor goddess, neither man nor woman would play the chief part in Homer's Odyssey, nor would the film carry that name, nor even the name of Surge and Thunder, An Epic of the Sea, Adapted from the Novel by the late Homer of Chios; but be named rather

THE HOUND OF ITHACA
A Stupendous Story of Canine Love.

Because the producers would see at a glance that one character stood out above and beyond all others in the poem, the only character that was instantly wise to the king of Ithaca when he returned to his homeland, and this character was the old dog Argus; and this dog, being made younger, and clothed in immortal beauty and divested of fleas, and moving constantly through the film both far away and in close-ups, would be box-office from beginning to end.

So that when Telemachus, sitting on a low wall outside the Odyssean residence, would be thinking about his father, this dog would be lying at his feet and gazing sadly up into his eyes; and when Penelope came out of the high-roofed hall to complain of the conduct of the suitors and said to him, "Junior, what is ailing you?" and he replied, "Mother, I have made up my mind. I will go forth on to the wine-dark sea and search for Pop," and Penelope answered, "Equip a black ship then, my dear boy, and heaven go with you. I must

return to my web," then this dog would bark loudly for sheer joy, and frisk about the feet of Telemachus all the time he was fixing the black ship and dragging it down to the innumerable laughter of the sea.

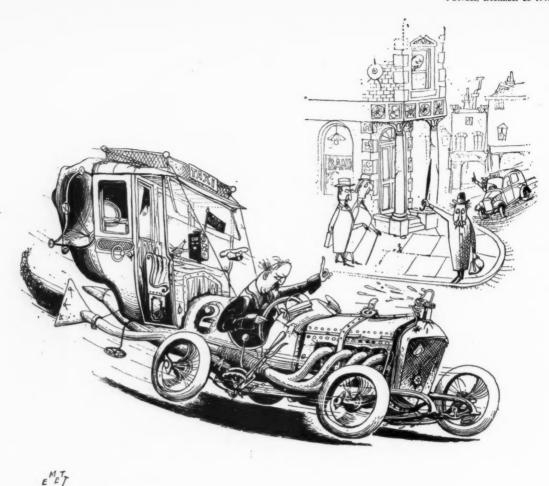
And Telemachus would not go to visit Nestor or Menelaus in his black ship but would go rather to Phæacia, and take part in the Phæacian games, and win them all including the great ball-game, and fall in love with Nausicaa, and she with him, and when they walked together through the garden of Alcinous, where the fruit ripens all the year round and the pears and pomegranates kept falling on the ground with loud thuds, this dog Argus would yawn because he was feeling lonely and dissatisfied, and no dog likes being a gooseberry even in the garden of Alcinous.

And presently there would come news of a shipwreck, and the whole party would go streaming out from the golden palace down to the beach where a lonely mariner has been washed up by the waves. But Telemachus and Nausicaa would get there first, driving very fast in a covered mule wagon, and the dog Argus running behind in the dust.

And when they helped to pull the lonely mariner ashore the dog Argus would be first into the water, and he and none other would recognize his old master, Odysseus, so that everyone at the court would say "How that dog does take to you, stranger!" But Odysseus would not reveal himself to them, nor even



FURTHER OUTLOOK . . .



"Thought the old brigade wouldn't let those new nippy taxis get away with it. . ."

to his son, but when he was asked to say where he came from and who he was he would answer, "Let the blind bard strike a few notes on his zither and I will tell you all."

And then he would say, "My home town, too, is on rocky Ithaca, and I was one of the crowd that sailed with the wily Odysseus to sack the topless towers of Ilium." And he would tell them how this was done, with many close-ups of the wrathful face of Achilles and the inside of the Wooden Horse.

And the zither would sound again, and he would tell them of the sirens and Circe, and Scylla and Charybdis; and the dog Argus, his mouth open and his eyes full of intelligence, would wag his tail and follow every word that was said.

"And what has happened to the great Odysseus himself?" they would ask. "Is he alive or has he peradventure been drowned in the fishy sea?" And Argus would bark loudly, as if to say "No, sir! You bet your sweet life he is living still." And then Telemachus and

the stranger would sail away to Ithaca, and by some accident Argus would be left behind.

But not for long. For after the bending of the bow and the great scene in the hall, when Odysseus has cast off his rags and shown them who he is—and because of the great number of arrows which he would shoot, thick and fast and quivering as they struck the wall, the suitors would lie down on the floor and beg for mercy, till all the arrows were spent, and then he and Telemachus would be hard pressed indeed—why then there would be a barking outside the bronze door, and it would burst open, and Nausicaa and Argus would dash in, followed by a posse of Phæacian marines.

And then, last of all, the most villainous of the suitors would be found threatening violence to Penelope in the room where she wove and unwove, whenever the film remembered it, one or two stitches of her web; but Odysseus would knock him down with a great godlike thump to the jaw, and he would get up again and knock Odysseus down, and they would go on

knocking each other down thump after godlike thump, so that each of them unless they had been endowed with immortal strength by Zeus, the father of the gods, would have been dead a dozen times over. And then the dog Argus would dash in and help his own dear master, but the suitor would give him a terrible kick so that he seemed to be dead, and Odysseus, gathering all his powers, would hurl the suitor out of the window, and Penelope would say, "Gee, it's you," and fall into her husband's arms.

And now, when all the suitors are routed, and Telemachus is holding Nausicaa's hand, and the wise dame Penelope is leaning on the shoulder of the great salesman who has seen so many cities and travelled so far, and they would be going to drink a loving cup together, but rather sadly because Argus is not with them—now, in the mellow light of the afternoon, he would limp into the hall, with one paw wrapped in a wimple and one eye bandaged with a snood, and so would end the story of the homecoming of the king of Ithaca, barren island, not good for horses but nourisher of many goats.

EVOE

6 6

"To obtain 100 per cent. results, he said, managements had to be 10 per cent. frank."

Report of speech in "The Scotsman"

This appears to be moral profiteering.

## A SISTER FOR PETER

IT is generally accepted that the birth of a baby is a fair excuse for a bottomless inanity in parents. That they should announce the birth of their child is natural and proper, but it is a mere archness with themselves which induces them to declare "A sister for Peter" or "A brother for Ann." It cannot be that they are writing for the information of their friends, for their friends will not need to be informed of what they know already. It cannot be that they are writing for the instruction of the world at large. It can only be that they are writing for their own unbridled delight. It would be interesting to discover at what point it becomes too embarrassing to continue this form of announcement. I have seen "a brother for Richard, Ann and Hugh." Three years on, will they shrink, or not, from announcing the birth of "a sister (Judith) for Richard, Ann, Hugh, John, Robert and Angela"? Certainly there will be something to be said for it. By that time even the friends may well be grateful for a re-statement of the exact tally. But the happiest possibilities of this form of advertisement have not yet been realized. Here surely is a perfect opportunity to court the rich relation, or to make public pronouncement of influential connections. "A nephew for Uncle James." "A second cousin for Sir Gregory Mulwhistle." Or even, in the event of an unusual relationship, "An aunt for Mrs. Bruce Slotworthy."



"And remember how the sherbet upset you last time."

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH THE L.F.B.

T the headquarters of London A Fire Brigade on the Albert Embankment I thought I would find such stirring stories of flaming Christmas trees, fiery festoons, incandescent Santas and hot beards as would jolt the most jaded digestions and hoist the most pendulous hangovers that ever looked upon the port-style when it was Ruby. But I reckoned without traditional British phlegm. Trifles such as twenty-eight chimney fires, a couple of men extracted from bricked-up flues, nineteen reasonable blazes, thirty false ("malicious" is the official word) alarms, one Female Person rescued from the river, one boy sawn out of a milk-churn, and a total of ninety calls are all in the day's -one day's-work to the L.F.B. "But you should have seen our Christmas party for those orphans," they said; "something real, that was." "And did Father Christmas come sliding down the pole, alighting on the rubber mat as in the picture?" I asked, clutching at my straw. But he didn't. He was offduty, and nowadays the Brigade can cope with as many fires as you are likely to light while keeping strictly to a two-watch system. When you know that a motor fire-engine is manned and out in the street within fifteen seconds of the alarm-bell's sounding and that it will be sousing your pictures in an average of five minutes from the "off," you realize that your fires haven't a dog's chance; that is, if you have been equally prompt in calling round at the fire station (a "running call"), in breaking the glass (with the elbow, please) of a Street Fire Alarm, or in dialling 999, YYY, WWW or XXX, whichever you prefer.

At this stage I demanded to be shown the Records, and was soon deep in a massive tome which, to the trained mind, revealed the Real Facts about Christmas and Boxing Day Emergencies in practically no time, say an hour and a half. To meet the convenience of readers, the Official Secrets Act and the Laws of Libel I offer them below in a slightly romanticized form.

bath-mat George had given her for a Christmas present. At any cost this must be dried, she thought. So just before going out she turned the gas on to "slow," bundled the bath-mat into the oven, pulled the flat door shut behind her and went. "What a lovely dry mat I'll have!" she George Fathead, meanwhile, sitting in front of his meagre electric fire in Lots Road studying the Manual of Electrical Engineering, Part VI, suddenly realized it was getting late, threw the volume down and shot forth, locking his flat behind him. Meeting at the door of the Fatheads' house in Hornsey, the lovers noticed a smell of burning, and, rushing inside, found that Cause of Fire was Heat from Domestic Yule Log Causing Timbers Around Faulty Hearth to Ignite. Mrs. F. had been foolish enough, reader, to install a modern low grate in an old fireplace without adequate insulation of the joists, etc. George picked up the phone, dialled 999, a red light glowed in the Control Room at Headquarters, the card-index showed which station was involved, its alarm bell was rung, the informa-

It was Christmas Day in Wandsworth, also in Flat 2a Fortunate Mansions, where Miss Fey Feckless was having a lovely deep bath in preparation for Christmas dinner at the Fatheads in Hornsey; and Someone would be there! Someone was George Fathead, the son, an electrical student, who lived in Lots Road, Chelsea, so as to be near electricity. Are we all set?

Fey got out of the bath, spilling oceans of water over the floor and drenching the thick sponge-rubber tion was relayed to its Watch-room, and within fifteen seconds a Pump-Escape Appliance was on its way, the four firemen putting finishing touches to their appearance inside the limousine-type body so as to have nice warm hands to unscrew knobs and things when they got to the Address. The Pump-Escape Appliance was immediately followed by a Pump Appliance, but as Hornsey's Turntable Appliance was having an overhaul the next-door fire-station had their alarm-bell

rung and were told to send a Turntable Appliance and hurry up about it.

Within five minutes the Fatheads' windows were broken to allow smoke to escape, and in less time than it takes to write, the Timbers Around Hearth were quenched, as was the Yule Log, using only Firstaid Equipment (very like a gardenhose on a drum). Nothing now remained to be done except break the Faulty Hearth to bits, and the firemen withdrew, leaving the party to sit down to their Christmas dinner.

No sooner, however, etc., than the phone went (a) to inform Fey, bless her, that the occupants of the flat above hers in Fortunate Mansions, noticing a smell of burning rubber and dense clouds of smoke, had summoned the Brigade, whose arrival in four minutes thirty-six seconds had prevented any other Damage to Premises than broken windows and Destruction of Contents of Oven (Bath Mat), and (b) to tell George that his Manual of Electrical Engineering had come into contact with the fire he had left on. but that a passer-by, by means of a Running Call, had brought the

Thoroughly stimulated, the little family settled down to a hilarious afternoon. At about five-thirty Mrs. Fathead retired to the kitchen to heat up the remains of the turkey, and it was not until eight o'clock that the electric oven, which she had left full on, Ignited Fat Left On Sides of Oven (shame, Mrs. F.!) leading to Destruction of Edible Contents and the kitchen windows this time. After that the old folk soon retired to bed, wholly tired out with laughing, and the moment to which Fey had been looking forward all day had come.

Pushing the moquette settee up to where the Faulty Hearth once was, George seated himself by Fey's side and, drawing her close to him, lit a cigarette. "Darling!" he murmured-and the lovers' lips met in a long kiss. It is an attested fact that you cannot simultaneously have your lips locked in a long kiss and smoke a cigarette; and to George's credit it must be recorded that even at to-day's price he sacrificed his smoke to Romance, Carelessly Disposed-of Cigarette Igniting Upholstery. (Arrival at Premises in 4 mins. 10 secs. and Damage to Windows and Trousers.)

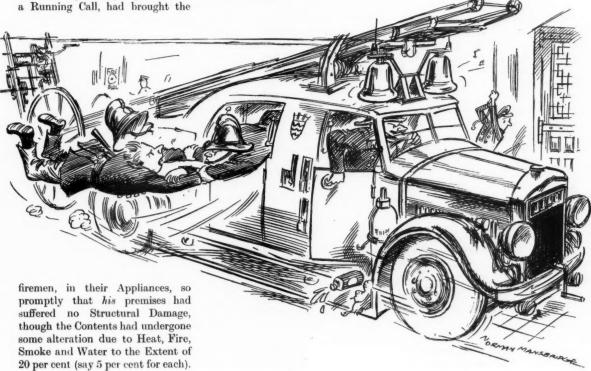
To end the long day (2.10 A.M. to be precise) Fey returned home to Fortunate Man-



sions, all starry-eyed but entirely without her front-door key. What did she do? Ah, you've guessed! Three minutes dead this time—and two pounds to pay. What a day!

You will see from this pretty story that years of indoctrination have stopped London, as an Administrative County, from being careless about candles or foolish with festoons. But the real credit for the absence of widespread conflagration at Christmas time, when roaring fires gather parties around half the hearths and leave the other half exceptionally tenantless (with the twin consequent dangers), belongs partly to the motor, which has brought every outbreak within five minutes' reach, partly to the telephone and the 999 system, and finally and enduringly to the high and tried morale of all ranks of a wholly efficient service.

JUSTIN RICHARDSON



## AT THE PICTURES

Hounded-Innocence is Bliss

THE exigencies of an early pressday deprive us of the chance to deal with any of the big competitors for the Christmas trade; to-day we clear up two earlier ones which, though not at all important, are variously interesting.

The first, known in the U.S. as Johnny Allegro, has for English

showing been inexplicably re-titled Hounded (Director: TED TETZ-LAFF). If it is seriously contended that the change is likely to make more people here go to see the film, all I can say is it's hard to see why. The story is not even about anyone who is being houndednot more, that is, than hundreds of other gunplayand-pursuit pic-

tures; whereas it certainly is the only one about a man—a florist, what's more—named Johnny Allegro. I've heard it suggested that "people don't know what Allegro means," but, bless me, do they know what Belinda means, or Largo, or Gatsby? Anyone not knowing what it means might safely be allowed to assume it's an ordinary surname until Johnny Allegro himself, in this

picture, explains that it means "quick" and implies that he lives up to it. He is a former gangster, now going straight as a florist in a hotel, who is induced to take on a sort of secret-service job which leads him to a small island off the Florida coast. Here there is a sinister villain in the real old cultured-master-mind



Canine Chimera

Johnny Allegro—George Raft

tradition, who is a dead shot with a bow-and-arrow, relaxes to gramo-phone-records of Beethoven and has lobster for breakfast. You can well imagine the sort of thing that goes on; indeed the film is without any particular distinction and is likely to disappoint people who remember that TED TETZLAFF directed The Window. But it's certainly not boring. The part of the

principal character is admirably suited to GEORGE RAFT, and the old tricks of suspense (including that infallible one of the search of a deskdrawer at a moment when the owner may appear) are used to great effect. All the same-why did nobody realize that the film would be improved out of all knowledge by showsome of the ing

scenes in natural silence instead of against a background of continuous minor-key oodling?

With Innocence is Bliss (Director: LLOYD BACON) we have another changed title; originally it was Miss Grant Takes Richmond, and this change is easier to understand. Not many moviegoers over here remember that Grant took Richmond. It seems a pity that the careful naming of the characters of Miss Grant and

Mr. Richmond should go for nothing, but the film is a gay trifle, with plenty of fun and bright dialogue, and the loss of its facetious title is not serious. The girl (LUCILLE BALL) is an incompetent and unlucky secretary, taken on because of her incompetence by an illegal bookmaking firm, so that she may make a show in the front

office-the place is supposed to be an estate agency-without ever realizing what is going on in the boss's private room. The boss being WILLIAM HOLDEN the end is predictable, but the little film runs its course briskly and amusingly, with characteristic performances by JAMES GLEASON and FRANK McHugh as the boss's henchmen and some well-imagined and funny slapstick incidents as well as many good lines. Experienced typists in the audience are full of delight at the heroine's difficulties with her typing and dictation, but you don't need to be such a specialist to enjoy the picture.

\* \* \* \* \*

Survey
(Dates in brackets refer to Punch reviews)

Among the releases is A Run For Your Money (7/12/49), which though not very fresh has plenty of good simple fun. Sentimentalists will like the lavish new Technicolor

version of Little Women.
RICHARD MALLETT



[Innocence is Bliss

Just a Home-girl

Ellen Grant—Lucille Ball

## HAT TRICKERY

IF you dislike unexplained mysteries I pray you to read no further. I do not pretend to expound. I merely chronicle what A.B. told my wife and me in the Ramshorn Coffee House.

One afternoon A.B. paid his usual visit to the Green Teapot. He hung his hat on the usual peg on the usual rack. When he had finished his usual cup of tea and slice of rolypoly he took down the only hat on the rack. It had his hat's colour and shape, but just as soldiers sense at once when they have the wrong rifle he sensed he had the wrong hat. Inside were the initials C.D.

A.B. handed the hat to a waitress to take to the manager's office. There, she said, it would remain until C.D. returned with A.B.'s hat.

Nine weeks passed with no sign from C.D. One afternoon A.B. paid his usual visit to the Green Teapot. As he hung his hat (the one rescued from redundancy by the action of C.D.) on the usual peg on the usual rack he saw a hat on the neighbouring peg. The instant feeling that it was his was confirmed by the initials A.B. inside.

He stood beside the rack until a man rose from a table and came to claim the hat. When the man saw A.B. holding two hats he said "So it was you who took my hat from the Brown Jug last week."

"I have never been in the Brown Jug in my life," retorted A.B. truthfully. The other man put out his hand and turned over A.B.'s other hat (the one now destined for redundancy). When he saw that it too bore the initials A.B. he looked grave.

"The initials in that hat should be mine—E.F." he said.

"No," said A.B. "That is my old hat. Look carefully."

E.F. looked carefully, and shook his head. "Of course, you're right," he said. "But where is my hat?"

"Obviously on the head of a man whose initials are C.D." said A.B. "He took mine from the Green Teapot and took yours from the Brown Jug. It was the merest

chance that we came together this afternoon."

"What am I to do?" asked E.F. "I have no hat."

A.B., who had no intention of parting with either of his hats, said, "In the manager's office there is a hat which was left by C.D. when he took mine. It may not suit you, but it will at least allow you to reach home in decency."

Together they went to the manager's office and retrieved the hat. "That is my hat," said E.F. the moment he saw it.

"Impossible," said A.B. "It's C.D.'s. Look inside."

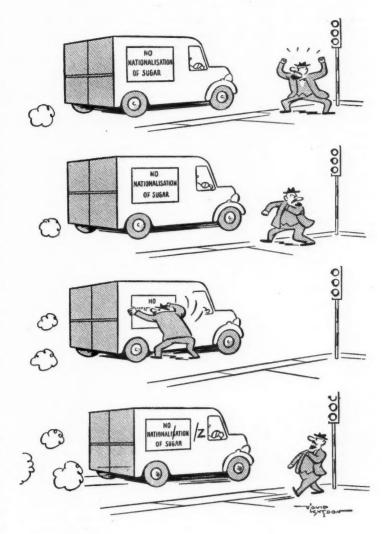
E.F. held the hat for A.B. to look inside. It bore the initials E.F.

That was what A.B. told my wife and me in the Ramshorn Coffee House. As we parted outside, A.B. said "Eerie, isn't it?" And off he went, courteously raising my hat to my wife.

3 3

"Many women, this year, I find, are buying plum puddings. Very good they are, too, and quite inexpensive. Micemeat, however, is another proposition." Scottish paper

Though also inexpensive.



## ON NOT WEARING A HAT

ONE of our newspapers has been quoting an American writer who claims to read character by studying hats. The author, Mr. Frederic Meier, tells us that an easygoing man wears a floppy hat, that turned-up brims are worn by self-assured businessmen, and that a man who wears a bowler squarely on his head is generally a hard man to beat at a bargain.

Compared with Sherlock Holmes's deductions from a bowler hat, in "The Case of the Blue Carbuncle," Mr. Meier's discoveries strike us as neither original nor profound; any Boy Scout, we feel, could tell us as much. But at the moment when, vexed by his superficiality, I was about to abandon him, I came upon —"For men who wear no hats the rules of society exist only to be broken."

I doubt whether the most advanced Boy Scout has caught up with this. It is a glittering vision of Mr. Meier's own. In a way it is a pity that its falsity is so easily demonstrated, for the picture it conjures up, of bareheaded men going about menacing the rest of us, is agreeably But justice must be fantastic. served. And of course there are a dozen sensible reasons why a man might not wear a hat. He may think they will make his hair fall out. He may be allergic to them, sneezing whenever he passes one. He may simply prefer not to wear them, as

DEAK SIR YOUR CLASSES AND ARE NOW AND ARE NOW ARE NOW AND ARE NOW ARE NOW AND ARE NOW

other men prefer not to eat meat or grape-fruit. Or he may be frightened of them, as I am.

I have not forgotten what I endured with the last hat I bought, in July 1939, when I was in London trying to break into Fleet Street, and had a dim notion that I should get in sooner with a hat than without one (I had probably been seeing too many American films).

At that time the black Homburg was extremely fashionable, so much so that without one you could scarcely hope to get anywhere in your profession. But I rejected the Homburg after one glance at my reflection, and so did the hatter. "I think not, sir," he said, turning a little pale. "Perhaps this?" And he whisked from its box one of those hats with a snap brim, so-called for the entirely adequate reason that the brim snaps up and down at your desire.

I liked the look of it, donned it, snapped down the brim and turned to look at myself. The brim snapped up again, and the hatter sniggered, unsuccessfully trying to conceal it with a cough. He took the hat from me, kneaded the brim between his fingers and laid it on my head as gently as an archbishop crowning a queen. He had scarcely opened his mouth to say "That's better" when the brim snapped up again.

We tried four or five times more; we tried until we were both a little bored. Then the hatter said he didn't think I should find a more suitable hat; I agreed (I always agree with hatters), screwed my old hat into a pocket, and left.

It had a lot of character, that snapper, though looking back I think it probably did my career more harm than good. The trouble was that I never managed to control the brim. Sometimes it would stay down for as long as fifteen minutes, but when I least expected it up it would snap, usually as I was looking some important executive straight in the face. At other times it would snap up and down so often, and at such a pace, that persons to whom I was talking glanced nervously over their shoulders, under

the impression that the hat was signalling to somebody.

Since it was impossible to carry on a serious conversation in such a hat I acquired the habit of carrying it in my hand, where the brim could snap up and down quietly to itself without attracting any attention. But by then the damage was done. I was known as the man with the queer hat, sometimes misreported as the queer man with the hat, and Fleet Street rejected both of us.

Mr. Meier would deduce from this story only that I had sound motives for breaking society's rules. "This is a very common case," he might say. "Here we have a man who has transferred to society his grievance against hats. It is only to be expected that he should keep to the right in the Underground, cross traffic lights on the yellow, push open swing doors the wrong way round and try to repair fuses without switching off at the mains. He is trying to get even with his hat."

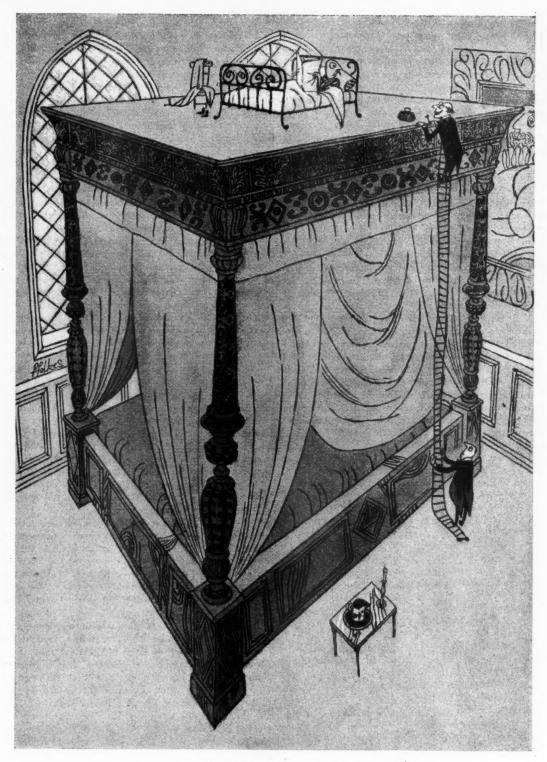
Well, perhaps I may be; it certainly owes me something. before accepting the label of public enemy it might be as well to examine the kind of society Mr. Meier has in mind. Nobody seems to wear more than one kind of hat. A businessman is never seen in a floppy-brim, a bookmaker never wears his bowler but at an angle of reckless good-humour. Nobody ever wears caps, not even while playing golf or pruning apple trees (it would be interesting, though not, I suspect, flattering, to have Mr. Meier's views on cap-wearers). It follows that a stern man is never anything but stern, a jovial man anything but

We need do no more than compare this society with our own—in which we wear several types of hat, suiting each to the diversion of the moment—to place Mr. Meier's society on its proper level. The word, I think, is rum.

S S

#### Believe It or Not

"Lost. Inside Gent's Wrist Watch, P5 Corporation Bus.—Reward." Advi. in "Lancashire Evening Post"



"And how's the old claustrophobia this morning, Sir Charles?"

### TRANSPORT

THIS Belle-Lettre muses over Transport, the chief aim of which is not so much to get from point A to point Al as to avoid bumping into other Transport. For one good set-to about whether it should be possible to go direct from Manchester to Polperro there are a dozen about such topics as whether more women cyclists collide with men pedestrians than vice versa. In fact there are so many such discussions that I shall have to omit this aspect of the subject altogether. I shall also omit the problem of stowaways in trams.

As I do not wish to give the impression that my attitude is one of arid exclusiveness I hurry on to ox-carts and balloons. The name most people associate with ox-carts is Pearl Buck, with balloons Montgolfier. Oxen need oxygen, balloons hydrogen. Balloons can manage both the vertical and the horizontal, ox-carts the horizontal only. On the other hand, ox-carts with their goads score over balloons with their ballast. A goad can be used over and over again, whereas ballast once used would have to be hunted for, and by the time of finding might well have been affected by climatic conditions.

The ordinary tram is rather looked down upon since the trolleybus occurred to its inventor. The trolleybus has a greater range of offensive action, and while lacking the freedom of the bus, pure and simple, has a kind of partial freedom—a freedom in a situation, M. Sartre would call it—which is quite superior to that of the predestinate tram. The most imaginative thing about a tram is the cow-catcher: as cows and trams rarely occur together the device is more ornamental than practical, which is as some things should be.



The advantage of horses over trams is that they can go sideways, as at Rochester. (This is a literary allusion: even if it means nothing to you it means a lot to me. If it does mean something to you, that's two of us who have read *Pickwick*. If it reminds you puzzlingly of a Restoration poet your knowledge is wider than mine, and that is not a relationship between reader and writer that should be encouraged.) Some disadvantages of horses compared with trams are that you cannot read on them so easily and that you rarely get the righteous feeling that comes from giving up your seat to a lady.

Horses are often used as the lower end of a comparison when talking about speeds. Pythons, tides and forest fires are but a tithe of the things that go faster than a man on horseback.

As most people have spent more of their time in perambulators than in any other vehicle it is odd that such do not occupy a more prominent place in literature. I suppose that children dislike being bottled up, and the dislike lingers subconsciously. When second-child-hood comes the aged use bathchairs, which are ostentatiously different in construction from perambulators and are differently propelled. Who ever saw a perambulator being pulled by an aged man in a cap or by a goat? Nobody, except perhaps Chagall.

The moving staircase is a confusing form of transport, as it works quite well when stopped, which is not true of the submarine or space-rocket. Escalators fascinate popular writers on physics, who like to imagine people running up them when they are going down and hint that this represents the kind of thing that is happening all the time in Outer Space. Escalators are yet another of the kinds of Transport which cannot go sideways and hence fail to make the highest grade.

Antique Transport, laid up in stables attached to palaces, has a fascination for me that no new-minted stream-liner ever attains unless it goes wrong. Complicated, creaky leather carriages, filled with hideyholes, like those in old-fashioned dressing-cases, take me back to a time when Transport was not just a rapidly narrowing gap between departure and arrival but a Way of Life. Serious travellers, Napoleon for example, would have fitments in their coaches for such en tout cas impedimenta as the complete works of Julius Cæsar, ink-horns, book-plated gazetteers, richly canopied palliasses and small brass cannon for returning salutes. Even the Swiss Family Robinson would have found that the possession of such a vehicle raised their standard of living. Sometimes the stables include sleighs, but these are usually so solid that one wonders how any ice bore them, if they ever travelled on ice; perhaps they were some kind of indoor sleigh.

Since the Samba replaced the Hornpipe seafaring has not been what it was. The kind of ships that take rich passengers to visit rich friends are often so decorated that they are scarcely recognizable as marine at all. "My boy," the directors say to the decorator, as they loose him on the restaurant and the lounge,

"don't spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tartan." There is a curious connection between sea Transport and food. Any traveller returning from a cruise talks about the splendour of the meals on board before referring in an off-hand way to the scenery. This is not true of travellers on trains and still less of travellers in cabs. Perhaps it is all due to vestigial fears of mutinies. After all, you cannot keelhaul somebody who may turn out to be a shareholder or even the chairman's aunt.

There are indubitably a very large number of different aspects of Transport, and were I to deal with them all it is unlikely that the Editor would much care for this contribution. I shall, therefore, mention only one more before bringing my Belle-Lettre to a neat close, and the bicycle is what this aspect is. As any motorist will agree, the bicycle is good at going sideways. Another advantage is that you can put a windmill on the front. A windmill on an elephant would never really get up speed, and a windmill on an aeroplane would go so fast it would not cause much delight, but a windmill on a bicycle is just right. Car drivers, at least in built-up areas well policed, might find windmills enjoyable, but they go in more for nymphs about to dive, a manly taste for those who like their tastes manly.

And now for the promised neat close—the word "Transport" comes from two foreign words meaning "Across" and "Door": I cannot imagine why.

R. G. G. PRICE



"I joined the Legion two or three weeks ago to try to forget a girl called Elsie or something."

## THE PLUMBER AND THE PIPE

IT was a wife, a housewife,
A wife in a cottage sma',
Who has put a bowl of white enamel
To catch the drips in the ha'.

There's a man that leans his bicycle
On the braw new paint o' the shed;
"Come up, come up, gude plumber,
Come up, and mind your head!

Come down, come down, my little son,
And let the kind man be!
He has ta'en the side from off the bath;
O a bonnie bold man is he!

He has turn'd a wheel, the muckle wheel That's under the bathroom floor; And when, O when, my little son, Sall we hae hot water more?"

Then up and spoke the plumber:

"My years they are eight times eight,
But never the day when I did see
A pipe in such a state!

Now whaur will I get a joint this size?"
His voice it is full of woe.

"Over the hill in yonder town
Is the place of a chap I know——"

"Ride fast, ride fast, gude plumber,
For the miles are three times one,
And you maun be there and here again
Before the day is done."

The waefu' man he shook his head;
"That makes them three times two.
There's never a plumber in the land
May such a journey do!

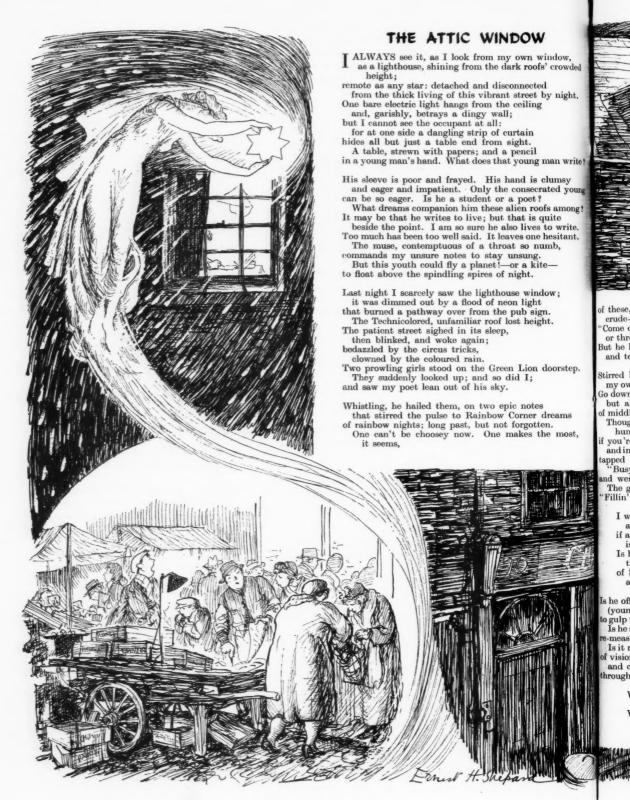
I maun take this piece of pipe and wait Till a day when things look slack; And I'll leave the bath the way it is— It's nae use putting it back."

At the garden-gate this man of doom
Has turn'd himself about;
"If you don't want to blow the house up, Missis,
You'll shovel the boiler out."

O the boiler's cauld in that cottage sma',
And cauld the tap frae the main.

The plumber with his piece of pipe
Was never seen again.

Ande







# SHADES OF THE MANSION HOUSE

THIS is the season of the year— or it soon will be—when thousands of young panto-goers resolve that they will some day become Lord Mayor of London. It is also the season when parents are called upon to answer innumerable awkward questions about Dick Whittington, about his cat, his spectacular rise to fame and fortune and his subsequent transformation on the stage into a creature of remarkably unboyish contours. There are probably as many ways of by-passing this ordeal as there are opera glasses, but the wise parent will attempt much more than an evasive shuffle. He will deal firmly-yet not too faithfully-with Dick, and then steer the questionnaire towards matters of broader interest with some such introduction as "Of course, Dick Whittington was only one of nearly six hundred Lord Mayors of London. . . . " If the boy (your boy) continues to hear Bow Bells in his dreams and remains firm in his resolution, your best course is to take him along to the Mansion House for a preview of his future home and a fair picture of what the job entails.

First, though, there is the handling of Dick Whittington. The Whittington stone at Highgate describes Dick as "Sir Richard Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London," though, in fact, he was never knighted, was never Lord Mayor (only Mayor) and served not three terms of office but four. To reveal such woeful inaccuracies before our young hopeful is as inadvisable, however, as to suggest.

as some authorities do, that Dick's cat was merely a corruption of the French achat, a purchase or bargain. No, the legend should be left intact, and Dick's rich father should never be mentioned. Incentives must be preserved.

Forward, then, to the Mansion House.

"Shall I eat turtle soup every day?" asks the boy.

"Not exactly," you say. "Times are not quite what they were. The



great banquets are now officially described as dinners and are certainly not the blow-outs of pre-war days. Calf's head is difficult to come by, so mock-turtle soup is a rarity, but you should get plenty of synthetic mock. And you'll always be able to examine the block on which live turtles from the West Indies were slaughtered in the good old days. It's in the cellars."

The sound of Bow Bells grows fainter in the boy's ears; he blanches and his mouth begins to droop at the corners.

"But you mustn't be put out by the turtle soup situation," you add quickly. "Lord Mayors live almost exclusively on bicarbonate of soda after their first month of office. You'll be expected to attend about five hundred public luncheons and dinners during the year and make well over a thousand speeches. There'll be five thousand letters to write, three hundred and sixty-five meetings and committees to preside over, eighty-odd balls and receptions . . ."

The boy mutters something about barons of beef.

"Sorry, no barons of beef either. Remember, though, that you'll never be able to please all your guests. In 1663 Pepys found the Lord Mayor's banquet a most disagreeable affair. 'It was very unpleasant,' he wrote, 'that we had no napkins nor change of trenchers, and drunk out of earthen pitchers and wooden dishes.' Imagine that. No change of trenchers!"

"I take it," says the boy, "that I should be able to ride in the gilded coach?"

"I'm glad you mentioned the coach: perhaps we ought to go round to the City Greenyard and inspect it. Eh? Well, the City Greenyard's a pound . . . yes, the same spelling . . . a place where stray dogs and sheep and things are kept until their owners can be found."

"Does the Lord Mayor's coachman live in the

pound?"

"Er-I'm afraid there's no coachman; no full-time coachman, that is. The fellow you saw in the Show was hired just for the day. You see, the great coach is only used once a year, and there's such a thing as Direction of Labour. A great pity in a way: the old pre-war coachman was such a splendid figure of a man that it took six assistants to get him up on the box. But you'll like the coach. It's got no springs, and no brakes! And it weighs four and a quarter tons. Of course, mayors were mayors in olden times."

"No brakes, did you say?"

"That's right. When the coach is on Ludgate Hill its entire weight is taken by the two rear horsesthere's probably a proper name for them but I'll call them the two full-backs, if you see what I mean. They're extremely clever animals and know exactly when to change down or reverse. And they're never put out of their stride-except this last time, when some of them bolted -by the cheering and trumpeting. You'll find the coach extremely comfortable, I think, and so roomy that you'll be able to stand upright in it even with your topper on. The only snag is that it pitches and tosses rather badly, in the manner of a frigate nosing through the Bay of Biscay in an equinoctial gale, which accounts, perhaps, for the prevalence of that distressing malady known as mal de maire. So, you see, the shortage of turtle soup and barons of beef needn't worry you at all. It was built in 1757 and cost £1,065 3s. 0d."

"Including P.T.?"

"Your house will be extremely grand, with numerous recep. ballroom, saloon and usual offices. The Egyptian Banqueting Hall is Greek in style, and the ballroom is never used for balls, though it's the scene of the Lord Mayor's Christmas party for children. It contains a plaster version of the story of "Leda and the Swan," which meets with occasional disapproval and was once boarded up for a whole year as a mark of respect to Queen Victoria and her Diamond Jubilee. I must warn you, however, that yours will be the only private house in the world equipped with prison cells and a court of justice. Oh, I forgot to say that the ballroom is now being re-decorated and will have to miss its party this time. Now what else can I tell you?"

"I suppose the pay's all right?"
"No, far from it. Before you
can become Lord Mayor you must
show bonds to the value of at least
£30,000 and you must be prepared
to dig pretty deeply into your purse.
Once, an alderman was elected Lord
Mayor and then developed cold feet
and begged to be excused the
honour. He was fined one thousand

pounds—and that was in 1797, long before devaluation. Your duties will be many and varied. You'll be the chief magistrate of the City and spend a lot of time in the courtroom dispensing justice; you'll preside over the courts of the Corporation the Courts of Aldermen, Common Council, Husting and Common Halls; you'll be expected to look

after the fabric of St. Paul's Cathedral; you'll be given the quarterly password of the Tower; you'll be a member of the Privy Council..."

"It seems a pity they let the coachman go."

"Ah, but there are footmen in splendid livery, stewards, harassed

secretaries, and three very important ceremonial officers called the Swordbearer (who wears a fur cap), the Common Cryer and Serjeant-at-Arms (who carries the mace and cries 'Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!') and the City Marshal (who rides on horseback before the Lord Mayor's coach).

"I always thought it was 'Oi-yea!"

"No, sir. No less an authority on Norman French than QuillerCouch has approved 'Oh Yes!' Mind you, it's not 'Oh Yeah!' or anything like that. You will have at least half a dozen changes of gorgeous raiment, including robes of red, violet, black and gold, and ermine. Does that make you feel any better?"

Shades of the Mansion House begin to close once more around the

growing boy, and the sound of Bow Bells renews its assault on his eardrums.

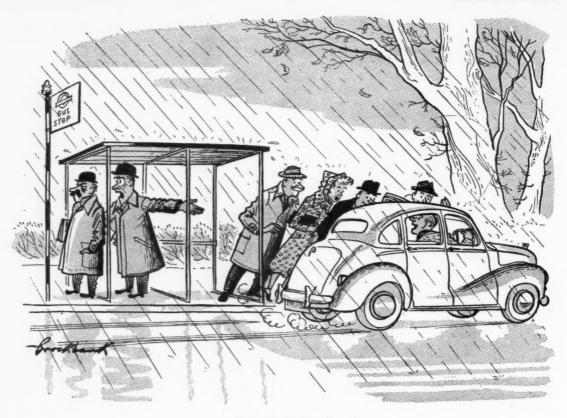
"However, I feel that I must point out," you say, "that your decision to emulate Dick Whittington and become Lord Mayor of London clashes with certain of your other resolutions—

particularly your vow of celibacy. Only seven of the five hundred and ninety-six Lord Mayors have faced their year of office as bachelors, and the experience is not, I understand, a very pleasant one. Won't you reconsider the matter?"

At this point prospective Lord Mayors have been known to burst into tears of rage and frustration. If your boy's lips begin to tremble—buy him a cat.

BERNARD HOLLOWOOD





"Can be do that?"

#### MOONLIGHT ON HAMLET

AM indebted to Dr. Ernest Jones for introducing me to a variety of fascinating explanations of Hamlet's behaviour. According to Gerth, it appears, the play is an elaborate defence of Protestantism; according to Rio and others it is a defence of Roman Catholicism; according to Meisels, Hamlet is a typical Jew. Plumptre agrees with Silberschlag in holding that the play is a satire on the matrimonial adventures of Mary Queen of Scots, while Elze regards it as a parable of the domestic life of the Earl of Essex. Vining suggests that Hamlet was a woman who had been brought up as a man; E. V. Blake claims to have evidence that he suffered from fatty degeneration of the heart; and Dr. Jones himself (from whose book Hamlet and Œdipus\* I have culled these enchanting theories)

holds that the gloomy Dane had a morbid affection for his mother.

All these hypotheses have been put forward in reputable papers like the Populärwissenschaftliche Monatsblätter zur Belehrung über das Judentum and so on, and I am therefore reasonably sanguine about the chances of getting a reasonable reception for my own interpretation of the Hamlet problem, which is based on Hoerbiger's Cosmogonic Theory.

I know nothing of Hans Hoerbiger the man, except that he was a Viennese cosmologist. But thanks to Moons, Myths and Man and other erudite books by Mr. H. S. Bellamy (of whom more anon) I know all about his Cosmogonic Theory, or his Cosmological Theory if you prefer that permissible alternative; and, as it is quite likely that you do not, I will take time off to tell you what it says.

In Hoerbiger's view the moon was once a separate planet which cruised round the sun just as we do, only more slowly. One day, when the moon's perihelion happened to correspond with the earth's aphelion, the two planets came just a little too close to one another; and before you could say Populärwissenschaftliche Monatsblätter the moon began going round the earth and things were as we now know them, more or less.

This important change in our cosmogony was not effected without pain. The earth—according to Mr. Bellamy—was wrenched out of shape; earthquakes quaked everywhere; volcanoes erupted. Water from the higher latitudes was drawn away and piled up around the Equator, and then partly unpiled again. Whole kingdoms were drowned and civilizations perished.

The effect on the moon can only be imagined.

<sup>\*</sup> Recently published by Gollancz



Now Bellamy holds that almost every decent myth in the world's mythology originates in those events, which, he reckons, took place a mere fifteen thousand years ago. The Biblical flood, and the story of Atlantis, and deluges told of by the Mexicans and the Hawaiians and the Aztecs, who have a deluge-hero called Coxcox; the Book of Ezekiel and the Book of Jeremiah and the Book of Revelation: the legends of Greece and Rome—they all derive from the days when the moon was captured by the earth. Phæthon (for instance) was not the sun but the moon; he played the dickens with the earth's crust and was finally overcome by force majeure. The Hesperides' stolen apples were images of the new satellite. Quetzalcoatl, with his long feathery tail, was the moon trailing the stream of moisture that Hoerbiger says it did trail. The scarlet-coloured beast having ten horns . . . but I need hardly go on.

You are beginning, no doubt, to see the conclusion to which we are inevitably driven by all these considerations. The story of Hamlet is the story of the moon captured by the earth.

Like all such legends it has become rather corrupt in the course of years, but let us examine it for internal evidence.

You expect in a typical moonmyth to find a story of one character seeking to dominate another, the domination being completed only after various trials involving floods, earthquakes and, perhaps, a pursuit across the sea. (Never mind why.)

All right. Hamlet is the earth and the King is the moon. Hamlet's dilatoriness can now easily be explained in terms of Hoerbiger: before the moon was finally captured the earth must have made one or two bad shots, when the distance between them was just not small enough. These are represented in the Hamlet myth by the scenes where Hamlet finds his uncle praying, by the scene with the players, and so forth.

The flood is very clearly indicated in Ophelia's suicide by drowning. One point, by the way,

which Hoerbiger's Theory now clears up is the puzzling description by Ophelia of "bonny sweet Robin"—

His beard was as white as snow All flaxen was his poll.

Clearly she refers here to the vapourtrail we spoke of just now in connection with Quetzalcoatl; and when, a moment before, she sang that "in his grave rained many a tear" she was indicating the torrential rains that this trail caused to fall on earth.

Next, an earthquake. Act Five, Scene One will suit admirably—two clowns, with spades, etc., turning up the earth; and, as if this were not enough, a welter of geological metaphor:

Till of this flat a mountain you have made

To o'ertop old Pelion or the skyish head Of blue Olympus

from Lærtes, and from Hamlet a little later:

let them throw

Millions of acres on us, till our ground,

Singeing his pate against the burning zone,

Make Ossa like a wart!

If that isn't a cataclysm-image I don't know what is.

There is a maritime pursuit, too, though some of the characters seem to change their rôles here. Hamlet has moved down to being the moon, and the earth is, I think, represented by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Still, no experienced interpreter of myths would be discouraged by a little thing like that.

In the last scene the domination is complete, but Hamlet (reverting to his original part) is himself destroyed, just as, for instance, Atlantis was. We are presented with the character of Fortinbras at this point, however, and he undoubtedly stands for the glorious new era that followed the cataclysm; while Osric will do very nicely for his shiny new satellite. Sarastro and the Queen of the Night—

But I seem to be straying into my next myth. B. A. Young



#### AT THE PLAY

Castle in the Air (ADELPHI) Murder at the Vicarage (PLAYHOUSE)

REALLY cannot see why the I REALLY cannot see allen Coal Board should have fallen into a combustion over the cheerful disrespect with which it is treated in Castle in the Air. Any impersonal official monster should be big enough to take a little mocking, and the more confidence it has in its own efficiency the less likely it will be to take offence. Plays suggesting that soldiers are not necessarily senior wranglers and that the Royal Navy preserves an open mind about teetotalism often appear without ruffling the ancient calm of the Service Departments, and there is no good reason why the mushroom congregations of Civil Servants should be considered out of bounds. But I feel quite differently about the rather insolent cracks, aimed at particular politicians by name, with which this play raises easy laughter. By all means let us rag our masters in the mass, but Mr. ALAN MEL-VILLE's habit of dragging in personalities shows a sad lack of judgment.

This is a slight piece, yet there is a saving quality of genuine gaiety about the evening, and Mr. JACK

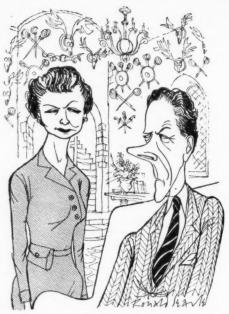


|Murder at the Vicarage Confession

Miss Marple-Miss Barbara Mullen The Rev. Leonard Clement-MR. JACK LAMBERT

Det.-Inspector Slack MR. STANLEY VAN BEERS an admirable cast with comic acting of rare polish. Mr. BUCHANAN plays an eccentric Scottish peer, who lives on credit in a mouldering castle in danger of being requisitioned by the Coal Board before it can be bought by a rich and eager American; and Miss BROWNE plays the secretary who loves the peer but is less willing than the American to give him practical help with his divorce. Their fooling together is one of the nicest featherweight duets we have been offered for a long time. Mr. Buchanan possesses a split-second sense in the handling

of crisp lines-Mr. MELVILLE keeps him pretty well supplied-and an unaffected ease of manner that is singularly winning, while Miss Browne adds to her special poise a simmering turbulence that threatens to blow Lord Locharne sky-high, and in fact does. Housed in the wettest wing, the tyrant from the Coal Board catches a monumental cold and is obliged to inhale friar's balsam under a bath-towel in the library, in which position his submission is quickly gained; both in and out of catarrh Mr. WILLIAM KENDALL presents an arresting figure whose final melting into a human being will touch the hearts of all taxpayers. Miss IRENE MANNING forcefully conjures the princess of an empire of delicatessen, and Mr. Ewan Roberts lends an original flavour to the poaching factorum without whom life in the castle would not survive. In the background is a posse of dissatisfied P.G.s who remain invisible, though at times the grounds echo their complaints. Flimsy as it is, this nonsense is a welcome theatrical soufflé; its producer, Mr. Roy Rich, seems to have whisked it out of the oven at



(Castle in the Air

#### Interrogation "Boss" Trent-Miss Coral Browne The Earl of Locharne-MR. JACK BUCHANAN

exactly the right moment. It is preceded by an exhibition of virtuosity from a swing trio, which personally I found most irritating, having gone to the Adelphi to see

I was disappointed by Murder at the Vicarage, an adaptation from Miss Agatha Christie by Miss Moie Charles and Miss Barbara Stage detection must be gripping, or funny, or both, and though this kept one guessing it seemed a tame affair that somehow rang false. Miss BARBARA MULLEN is clever but slightly monotonous as the parish spinster who unties the knots, and neat performances by Mr. REGINALD TATE, Mr. FRANCIS ROBERTS and Miss BETTY SINCLAIR stand out from a less certain field. ERIC KEOWN

#### Recommended

A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY-New-

Another Old Vic success.

THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM—Lyric— Late Restoration brilliance.

BLACK CHIFFON-Westminster-Flora Robson superb in good family drama.

\*TREASURE Hunt-Apollo-Irish extravagance, with Sybil Thorndike exquisitely mad.

(\*Suitable for young people)

#### ENTENTE CULTURALE

AN agreeable form of understanding between France and Britain is that interest in landscape, shared for so long by the two countries, which has, in the course of the last three hundred years, made its own special link between them.

It begins (one may arbitrarily

say) with that great French landscape painter of the seventeenth century Claude Lorraine. From the Palazzo Colonna in Rome, from various Italian and French collections, the masterpieces

of Claude were brought across the Channel by connoisseurs who doted on them. "So far," says Allan Cunningham of Sir George Beaumont, "did he carry his admiration of Claude that it amounted almost to a passion: the 'Narcissus,' by that great master, he commonly carried with him like a household Those pictures of classic ruins seemed, perhaps, in the age of Gibbon like a poetic interpretation of the "Decline and Fall," but British painters were no less affected by the freshness of dawn, the mellowness of sunset, which it was Claude's peculiar magic to render. He was, remarked Richard Wilson, "the only person that ever could paint fine weather," and Turner's admiration is recorded in the famous provision that the "Misty Sunrise" and the "Building of Carthage," which he bequeathed to the National Gallery, should "hang always between the two pictures painted by Claude, 'The Seaport' and 'The Mill.'" If words can ever convey the nature of a painting they do so in Keats's lines (in the Epistle to John Hamilton Reynolds) on Claude's "Enchanted Castle."

It was not many years after Keats had written of "the clear Lake and the little Isles, The mountains blue and cold near neighbour rills," that the French discovered British landscape. Géricault and Delacroix came over to London and found, instead of the universal fog and darkness, which they may have expected in art as well as nature, the light and colour of Constable and Turner. Constable was the

revelation of the Salon of 1824. "Admirable man," writes Delacroix, "he is one of the glories of England ... He and Turner are true reformers ... Our school has greatly profited by their example." It is certain that Constable and Turner helped to inspire the great school of open-air painting which is France's most dazzling landscape achievement. It

is a curious historical fact that they handed on no direct tradition of landscape in their own country.

The Victorian age intervened, with ideals in art which were very diff-

erent from those of the Continent. When Camille Pissarro and Claude Monet came to England at the time of the Franco-Prussian war it was not with that spirit of discovery which had impelled their Romantic forerunners forty-five years earlier, but to some extent they made a rediscovery. They saw Turners at the National Gallery and shimmering Turnerian effects of atmosphere from the Thames Embankment. Hence, pictures painted at Lower Norwood and Westminster have their place in the history of French Impressionism.

There is now a new entente of a

kind, the recently signed Anglo-French Cultural Convention. The title is not, perhaps, very attractive as a form of words, but its first-fruit, the exhibition of Landscape in French Art, 1550–1900, which opened this month at Burlington House, may well cause the visitor to recall at least how short the distance is between Newhaven and Dieppe.

The Briton (using the word in the sense it seems to have acquired, of indicating propensities for travel and points of contact with other nations) can enjoy it from this point of view and with some of the expansive holiday feeling with which he might board the "Golden Arrow," finding Delacroix close to us (and to Turner) at Dieppe, with an impressive little canvas of fishingboats on a restless sea, and Boudin at ozone-swept Honfleur. He may, in a topographical spirit, follow the Barbizon School to the forest of Fontainebleau, the Impressionists in Normandy and along the Seine, the Post-Impressionists in Brittany and Provence, varying the pictorial vacation with time in Courbet's company in the rocky Jura country, and returning at length to a London dissolved in colour by Monet's brush. WILLIAM GAUNT

#### HEY WILLOW

O DOLEFUL I, hey willow willow waly, I'm sitting under a willow tree and reading the Daily

Mail, the Daily Telegraph and The Times And meditating on my horrid crimes.

Hey willow waly, hey but I'm doleful, I'm sitting under a willow tree and singing a soulful Song in vers libre to a twelve-tone tune with no bars in it,

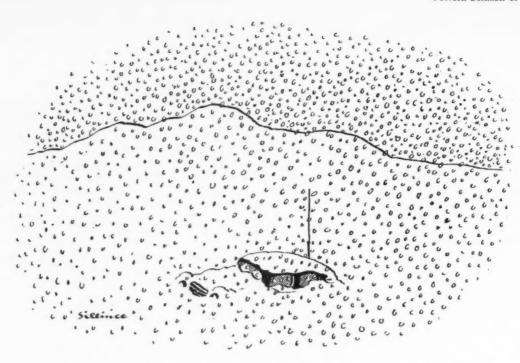
And the lyric has seventeen sea-sick stars in it.

Hey, sing hey, I'm sad and I'm weary, Sitting by the river and sniffing the wind from the gasworks and the beery

Smell from the pseudo-Elizabethan pub at the corner. The world's been buried and I am its only mourner.

Buried and gone, the poor old world, hey willow,
Hey willow waly, its head on an earthy pillow,
Eaten by worms, and soon they'll be eating me,
And I wish I hadn't had seventeen gins and South
African vermouth for tea.

R. P. LISTER



"Just think - without the wireless we'd have lost all contact with the outside world."

#### FREE RIDE

F all the fears that beset apprehensive humanity the most deep-seated is that of being unable to offer a bus-conductor the right money. Failing the introduction of the tipping system on buses -and who would not eagerly wave aside the halfpenny change rather than endure that long, disgruntled dredging in the money-bag?--the only key to an easy mind is a permanent pocketful of copper and bronze. This I always endeavour to maintain. It makes life smooth and sweet as I travel about London. If conductors do not actually smile when they see my extended pennyhalfpenny, neatly arranged for easy snatching, they at least show me the reciprocal courtesy of not bashing my ear with their ticket-punch as they lurch on towards less thoughtful passengers.

But the will to co-operation is not always enough. Some assistance must be looked for to circumstances. This morning, in the shape of an absent-minded fourpenny

journey in the wrong direction, circumstances placed me on the top-deck of a number eleven with nothing smaller than a florin and a sixpence. The bus was full, and the lady with whom I shared a seat took noticeable exception to my nervous repeated explorations of pockets; when I am wearing my yellow waistcoat I have thirteen pockets. The lady began to snort and glare before I had reached for the first time that pocket within a pocket which, under exploration, makes one's elbow stick out sharply. For the hip-pocket I had to stand up, a manœuvre which knocked her handbag under the seat in front; my courtly dive to recover it knocked my hat into the aisle, and the conductor bounded up the companion way at that instant and trod on it. Slapstick piled on slapstick in a most distressing manner. As the man behind pointed out with a sharp dig that the tail of my overcoat was spread over his newspaper I was suddenly conscious that I had lost my brief-case, and saw with only a modicum of relief that my neighbour had it propped against her chest like a tray.

I think I may say without extravagance that I was the cynosure of all eyes. The conductor, having no means of recognizing me as a well-known correct - fare profferer, momentarily the plaything of Fate, decided to start with me.

"Oile rairze filllsssst!" he demanded, snapping his fingers viciously under my nose.

My scarf fell gently on to the head of a lady in front.

"Oile rairze!" bawled the conductor.

Smugly, the other passengers oile held out their rairze. The lady in front tossed the scarf back over her shoulder without looking at me.

"You're treading on my hat," I said. It was weak, but a brave try, and I larded it with all the charm I could muster. The conductor obligingly stepped back a pace, but

that was all. Purple from embarrassment and plain blood-pressure, I asked the lady to excuse me while I picked it up and punched the dents out of it. As I did so she gave me a snort in the ear.

"I've got the right money somewhere," I told the conductor, forgetting that I had already squandered it on one of his colleagues travelling the other way. "Could you come back in a minute?"

Imperceptibly mollified, he snatched three-halfpence from the lady, who then pointedly rose and stood in the gangway pretending to read the back cover of *Screen Love* while I began on my four waistcoat pockets again. By this time I was experiencing a certain degree of resignation, and was prepared to expect the conductor to do the same. I sat down with the sixpence in my fingers. He would have to lump it. The lady sat down too, then got up again while I moved my hat.

The memory of the British public is short, and interest in me had subsided—for the moment. Nobody, therefore, witnessed a truly remarkable incident which then occurred. Determined to ingratiate myself as far as the situation would permit, I held my sixpence as near the edge as possible, telling myself that however much the conductor was going to hate the sight of it, my obvious attempt to make it easier for him to snatch must surely operate in my favour. I had it (the detail is interesting, and may cast light on the dynamics of the phenomenon) between the nails of my thumb and forefinger, held aloft; as the conductor approached me I tightened my grip slightly, and with the faintest of chinks it sprang into the air like a tiddly-wink. My eye was just quick enough to catch its brief glitter as it fell out of sight between the respective backs of my neighbour and her seat. It was all over so quickly that I only registered its disappearance as I held out my empty fingers to the conductor, saying sweetly, "Twopenny-halfpenny, please," and adding immediately, as my mental reactions hauled level with events-"It's down the lady's back."

"Now then," said the conductor, with menace, "now then!"

The lady gave me a look which would have left an outdoors man pale beneath his tan.

"'Ere," said the conductor.

"What's the lark, eh? Your fare, please." Looking round, I perceived that I was again holding my audience's enthralled attention.

"It's true," I said. "I had a sixpence, but it sort of flew up."

The conductor nodded. His eyes were like well-sucked humbugs, just before you come to the soft bit.

"Sort of flew up," he said, nastily.

"That's right—and it went down here——"

"Oh, you——!" said the lady, springing up with an angry crackle of Screen Love and clumping down the companion-way. I didn't care about her; it was the sceptical conductor I was after.

"Now then," I said—"Look!" However, the sixpence wasn't there.

"I'm looking," said the conductor. "Everybody's looking."

"It's gone down the back of the seat," I said wildly. "You know how it is at home—pencils, nail-scissors—they slip down the——"

"I'm not interested," said the conductor loftily, "in no nail-scissors. Nor no pencils neither, come to that."

The noble façade of Whitehall slipped past. There was silence on the top of the bus.

"Let us," I suggested boldly, "take the seat out."

"They don't take out," said the conductor. "Well?"

"Well," I said, and breathed deeply as we reached Trafalgar Square. "Well, then—I'm afraid it must be a two-shilling piece."

I found it in the south-east pocket of my yellow waistcoat and gave it him. Then I sat down, a receptive hand outstretched, and looked airily out of the window. As we passed one of Landseer's lions I wondered what Nelson would have done.

We were halfway round the Square when I realized that my receptive hand was still extended, and empty. But I did not look round until the conductor spoke.

"I suppose," he said with loud and measured irony—"I suppose you wouldn't be General Smuts?"

"I would not," I said.

"Thought you might be—trying to swing me with a South African two-bob."

He put it into my hand with a vindictive slap. My reactions were slowed down, and it rolled out again on to the seat . . . and out of sight.

"There!" 1 cried. "That's where the sixpence went!"

"So you say."

"I do say," I said.

"Say what you like," said the conductor. "You gave me a South African florin. Deny that!"

"I do deny it," I said. "And if you take the seat out you'll—"

"They don't take out!"

"I know," I said.

I then went down the stairs and into the National Gallery, outside which we had been stationary for some time. Later, when I have finished these jottings, I shall make my way to the Baker Street Lost Property Office and get my sixpence back. I shan't worry about the florin—I am not sufficiently sure of my ground; but I hope, while I am there, to recover my brief-case and hat.

J. B. BOOTHROYD

E E

Our Turbulent Minorities

"Labour won the 1945 General Electron with nearly 12,000,000 votes. The Conservatives and their allies, the Liberal 'Nationals,' polled nearly 9,500,000,000 votes. 'Orthodox' Liberals, the main Liberal party, polled over 2,300,000,000 votes."—"Malaya Tribune"



#### BOOKING OFFICE

#### Three Novels

Tale-Telling is such a strong human instinct that few novels are viable without a good story. Periodically critics try to exalt some static virtue at the expense of narrative, but they never succeed for long. The last generation saw a temporary success of this kind, and the plot in fiction, like the subject in painting, was dethroned—which drove many expert writers to take refuge in the literature of entertainment, producing the irrelevantly high accomplishment of so many detective stories. Now, refreshed by several decades of fertile experiment, serious fiction has returned to narrative, and with the convergence of the popular and the critical theories of literature all is ready for the central stream to flow and masterpieces to be produced.

A book like Mr. Tom Hopkinson's Down the Long Slide has interesting differences from the thriller of a generation ago. It is basically an escape story, told with the speed and bareness of outline the novel has learned from the film. There are none of the elaborations which in Buchan add so much of the charm. It is very short but a lot happens. The political background of "The Thirty-nine Steps" was naïve but adequate; it served its purpose. Mr. Hopkinson's political background is horribly probable and is the most important part of his book, which describes what happens to an Old Revolutionary when his Revolution succeeds. From this point of view it is a descendant of "Darkness at Noon." Brusilov, ex-Resistance leader and now head of the very efficient State Publishing Trust, fights a committee battle with the representative of the police. As this does not end in his usual victory he senses danger and puts longprepared plans into operation: once again he is on the

plans into operation: once again he

run. The climax comes after he has got across the frontier and landed in a displaced persons' camp. He hears that the Government have put out a story that they deliberately let him get away, and he realizes that the whole affair may have been a put-up job to get rid of a competitor too powerful to attack openly; might not the right thing have been to stay and fight it out once more? The excitement of the book combines that of the thriller and the political "inside story." There is, perhaps, nothing very new in it, but it is very well done and draws its strength from both the popular and the experimental traditions.

Mr. Frank Swinnerton's The Doctor's Wife Comes to Stay is accomplished in an old-fashioned style, like the best of the New English Art Club. (After all, only the Johns and the Picassos go on changing ahead of the contemporary climate.) I found the book hard to get into, needing time to get adjusted to the Impressionist technique. The "free paint" surface always seems destructive of narrative, which gets eaten away by the glancing lights of description and the inexplicit conversations. Probably a younger writer would have used up the plot on a short story and given it a harder outline, a gain in readability but a loss in suggestiveness. I may belong to the wrong generation to enjoy it. but I can see that my seniors, and perhaps my juniors. might enjoy it very much. At least, the theme is new, the characters individualized and the writer understands his job, so that I can admire its qualities if I can not respond to them.

In Mr. Malcolm Muggeridge's Affairs of the Heart the story is very thin and the incidental decorations, for which the plot obviously exists, lack sufficient novelty to carry it. "Advanced circles," the relationship of collaborators and the biographer's search for the past have often been treated before. Satire must be as contemporary as it claims to be, and many of the types punctured here have been stock characters in detective novels for years. An occasional flash of inventive malice suggests that a straightforward survey of the literary scene on the lines of "The Thirties" might have been more effective than this uneasy fiction, which avoids the positive virtues of both the new manner and the old.

R. G. C. PRICE

#### Prisoned Thinking

Almost all Russians have eyes movingly expressive beyond those of Westerners because as tiny children they spend nearly all their time completely swaddled. Between short periods of absolute freedom while being fed they are tight and straight immobile parcels, bound in a closed universe with all their fears and hatreds and revolts unexpressed unless in their glances. If Geoffrey Gorer and John Rickman are right in their startling and sometimes gruesome psychological study—The People of Great Russia—that same infant constriction affects the entire adult national mentality, being evidenced alike in wild alternations of joy and

despair, in preference for the rare orgy over a little steady comfort, in disregard of pain, in compulsion to pour forth their guilty souls before a sympathetic listener, not least in their fixing an iron curtain about themselves at the utmost attainable limit. In dealing with a nation of such mentality, it is here suggested, the weakness of inconsistency must be the one fatal mistake. C. C. P.

#### Spartan Folly

"No climate in the world is less propitious to picnics than the climate of England, yet with a recklessness which is almost sublime the English rush out of doors to eat a meal on every possible and impossible occasion," says Mrs. Georgina Battiscombe, in English Picnics, a highly entertaining study of this queer chink in our instinctive caution. The word pienic first appears in English in a letter of Lord Chesterfield, who used it in its original sense of a feast to which everyone brought a contribution, but the meal eaten at large we find as far back as Chaucer ("The Franklyn's Tale"). Pepys went in for it on the river in a big way, armed with his perspective glass. The eighteenth century added the sandwich, and the Victorians, lavishly encouraged by Mrs. Beeton, gave it form. Dipping freely into English literature, and always with nice ironic comment, Mrs. Battiscombe is warmly to be thanked for a book as graceful as it is amusing.

E. O. D. K.

#### Poet in Harness

Overlapping the ages of Alcuin and Alfred The Life and Times of Po Chü-i portrays the sustained effort of a great Chinese poet to render his vocation serviceable to his fellows. That this was expected and encouraged in Po Chü-i's day speaks well for the stature and integrity of his country's civilization. The poet himself occasionally maintained that the double yoke was burdensome, and bitterly compared his lot to the wilting of a lotus planted outside a Town Hall. But he did his best-and a very good best-in all manner of government posts, interspersed with spells of exile and happier spans of cottage retirement during one of which he died. Mr. Arthur Waley, with a theme perennially fascinating, a characteristic and fully documented background and hundreds of poems and essays from which to produce new and telling translations, finds every activity of his versatile hero grist to his mill. His book is the fine flour of scholarship.

H. P. E.

#### Man Against the Pole

Mr. Hammond Innes in The White South tells the story of the crew of a twenty-two-thousand-ton modern whale factory-ship caught and crushed in the Antarctic ice-pack, and of their struggle for survival through the long months of the Polar winter. Most people, no doubt, think that the peril and romance of whaling fled the seas with Moby Dick. Mr. Innes, whose knowledge of the technical side of modern whaling is evidently encyclopædic, effectively demonstrates to the contrary. His story provides a convincing picture of the conflict between the courage and resource of man and the forces of Nature in her starkest and most ruthless mood-a conflict whose titanic proportions have, however, the effect of making the clash of human motives which forms the foreground of the picture seem by contrast trifling and even commonplace, despite the sensational quality of its incidents.

#### **Books Reviewed Above**

Down the Long Slide. Tom Hopkinson. (Hogarth Press,

7/6).

The Doctor's Wife Comes to Stay. Frank Swinnerton.

Affairs of the Heart. Malcolm Muggeridge. (Hamish Hamilton, 8/6).

The People of Great Russia. Geoffrey Gorer and John

Rickman. (Cresset Press, 10/6).

English Picnics. Georgina Battiscombe. (Harvill Press, 9/6).

The Life and Times of Po Chü-i. Arthur Waley. (Allen and Unwin, 18/-).

The White South. Hammond Innes. (Collins, 9/6).

#### Other Recommended Books

A Spell for Old Bones. Eric Linklater. (Cape, 9/-) Odd, deceptively simple tale of the first century, when it seems there were giants about. The style mingles lyrical simplicity with

Dutward be Fair. Dennis Parry. (Hale, 8/6) A "psychological" murder story, not presented as a puzzle but worked out to a foreseen climax. Agreeably acid style, good court

scenes; quite absorbing.

The Hawksmoor Scandals. Bernard Hollowood. (Harrap, 3/6) The case against steel nationalization, implied with great ingenuity in a series of lively letters between a schoolboy and his literary father. Pleasing illustrations by Illingworth.



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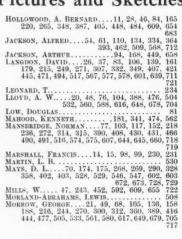
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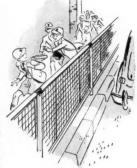




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